

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 122

THURSDAY MAY 1, 2008

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Record Profits

BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Europe's two biggest oil producers, posted forecast-busting first-quarter earnings.

**BUSINESS...Page 16**

### Riot Sentence

Six Buddhist monks were among 30 people sentenced by a Chinese court to jail terms ranging from three years to life for taking part in deadly riots in Tibet.

**ASIA...Page 17**



### Iron Man

To become a mega-movie star these days, a man must don the tights. Now it's Robert Downey Jr.'s turn.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 19**



**I am pleased with the enactment of the legislation providing for a Northern Marianas delegate in the House of Representatives. I am disappointed with the remainder of the legislation.**

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

## Congress OKs federalization bill

Measure now goes to Bush for enactment

### Pete A. eyeing delegate post

By AGNES E. DONATO  
[agnes\\_donato@saipantribune.com](mailto:agnes_donato@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio says he is interested in the new CNMI delegate position, but will not declare whether he will run until the

See PETE on Page 4

**The delegate bill would make us almost full-fledged citizens. We still cannot vote without first establishing residency in the United States, but after over 20 years of being citizens, we will finally have the opportunity to be heard in Congress.**

### Rebate payments to NMI, Guam OK'd

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr. approved yesterday the stimulus distribution plan and payment amount for American Samoa, and payments amounts to Guam, the U.S. Virgin Is-



Paulson

See REBATE on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A U.S. flag is seen while the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C., Pete A. Tenorio, talks to the media during yesterday's press conference at his office on Capital Hill.

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

**A** bill federalizing the immigration system in the Commonwealth is only one step away from being law.

See CONGRESS on Page 4

### Foreign workers' groups anticipated bill's passage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Alien worker groups were one in saying yesterday that the U.S. House of Representatives' pas-

sage of the federalization bill did not surprise them at all.

Dekada Movement counsel Stephen Woodruff said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*

See FOREIGN on Page 4

**Commerce: No need to control price of rice. PAGE 3**  
**JAL: No plans yet to reinstate air service to NMI. PAGE 5**

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## Local

## MRDC hires local consultant to help with permitting process

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Marianas Resort and Development Co., Inc. on Tuesday signed a consultancy contract with Conrad S. Hofschneider to assist the company with its planned resort development project on Tinian.

No less than chairman and CEO Kung Yun Lee represented the company in the signing of the pact and said he is excited about the development and the current pace of the project.

Lee said he is looking forward to completing all of the

government formalities and requirements before beginning with the construction of the golf course and the hotel and casino.

The contract will call on Hofschneider to focus primarily on the environmental and permitting necessary for MRDC to acquire a Coastal Resources Management major site permit.

In addition, Hofschneider will work toward applying for and acquiring necessary permits from earthmoving to building permit, to waste water treatment plant, and

groundwater management plans and others.

MRDC plans to construct the 405-room hotel casino Matua Bay Resort on the island. Its amenities include restaurants, spas, shopping arcade, and a convention facility.

The initial phase of the project also includes an 18-hole championship golf course, a first for Tinian.

MRDC has commissioned renowned architect Dr. Shin Takamatsu of Takamatsu Architectural & Associates Co., Ltd., an architectural design firm from Japan, to design the

hotel casino resort.

The design will emphasize advanced technologies in resource conservation. The 18-hole championship golf course, meanwhile, will be designed by Toshio Yamaga of Hida Design Company Ltd., whose firm is also from Japan. Conceptual designs for the hotel casino and the golf course have been completed.

Hofschneider will also be working closely with the designers and engineers to enable the implementation of the permits and regulatory requirements into the design

development. It is expected that environmental study will be completed within the next several months.

Matua Bay Resort is a project pushed since 2005 by MRDC, a Korean firm based in Guam.

The project involves two phases. The first phase will in-

clude the construction of 500 hotel rooms and an 18-hole golf course at an estimated cost of \$179 million.

MRDC is expected to make an additional investment of \$130 million for the Phase II of the project, which will include the completion of the facility.

## Revenue generating bill clears Senate vote, 8-0

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

The Senate approved yesterday a bill that would help the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pay for fuel.

The bill, which would reverse the October 2007 rollback of power rates, cleared the Senate by an 8-0 vote. Senate President Pete P. Reyes abstained.

The measure will suspend the rollback law up to Dec. 31, 2008, and allow the Public Utilities Commission to issue emergency and interim power rates. It will also ease quorum requirements for PUC, allowing the regulatory board to function with as few as one commissioner.

The proposed law also incorporates fiscal measures backed by the Fitial administration. It would reduce the government contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund to 11 percent of the total payroll. This is a significant cut from the 18 percent currently in effect and the 37.4 percent recommended by the Fund's actuary.

Half of the savings from the reduction will go to CUC's fuel expenses and \$80,000 to PUC's startup operations. The rest will be used at the governor's discretion.

Further, the bill would grant the governor unlimited reprogramming power over lapsed funding, re-appropriate some \$2.15 million of suspended earmarks to CUC's fuel expenses, and allow CUC to use half of its customers' security deposits for fuel.

The bill would also double the fees and charges for services such as driver license, vehicle registration, firearms license, police report, and marriage license.

The Senate previously shelved the bill, but recalled it yesterday after the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee held joint talks with House members, administration officials, and the chairwoman of the newly organized Public Utilities Commission.

Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration and acting special assistant for management and budget, said the bill has the support of the administration. She said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is not likely to veto the bill, like he did a similar legislation a few weeks back.

"He will likely approve this. We need it desperately," Fleming said.

The House of Representatives is expected to tackle the bill in a session this morning.

## KBS2 showcases Saipan, PIC

The Marianas Visitors Authority, in conjunction with Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Naoco Wedding, cosponsored KBS2 television's popular morning show "Nam Hee Suk & Choi Eun Kyung's Yeo-Yoo-Man-Man\*." The program will feature In-Bong Pyo, a popular TV celebrity/comedian from Korea, during his wedding anniversary and his family vacation while at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The show, filmed mainly at the PIC Saipan where Pyo's wedding ceremony, took place with full support from Naoco Wedding in commemoration of his 12th wedding anniversary at the wedding chapel located within the resort. The second part of filming focused on Pyo's family vacation at the resort.

Pyo and his family experienced "all inclusive" services provided by PIC, where they enjoyed a variety of water sports activities from point break, lazy river, boat riding, wave riding to snorkeling, which PIC is very famous for. A memorable "birthday party" arranged by PIC was held on the night of April 17 for Pyo.

"Nam Hee Suk & Choi Eun Kyung's Yeo-Yoo-Man-Man\*" is a morning TV talk show featuring a real-life story of a well-known celebrities primarily targeting housewives. The hosts of this program, Nam Hee Suk and Choi Eun Kyung, are very well-established entertainers in Korea. The show's "Saipan Special with Mr. Pyo" aired yesterday, April 30, at 9:30am-10:40am. (MVA)

# ROSHI'S MARKET KAGMAN

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# Commerce: No need to control price of rice

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Department of Commerce yesterday said it is taking a hands-off approach in the continued increase in the local price of rice, a staple consumed by about 90 percent of the Commonwealth's population.

"Currently, the department is not in a position to dictate price controls to the markets regarding the price of rice. In essence, the only time we can step in as a government agency and regulate the price of rice, or any other commodities for that matter, is if there is clearly evidence of price gouging. But even then, the matter has to be in relation to some civil emergency or natural calamity for which this current situation does not clearly dictate just yet," said Economic Development Division director John S. Blanco.

He said that the CNMI, like other rice-importing countries in the world, has no choice but to absorb the rise in the price of the commodity that is dic-

tated by international market forces.

"For all intents and purposes, we are at the mercy of world rice prices and we have no other alternative, given the absence of civil emergencies or natural disasters, than to just 'weather the storm' until prices eventually return to normal," he said.

Blanco, however, assured that the price of the staple will eventually stabilize soon and even advised the public to remain calm and not go into panic buying.

"On a more positive note, unlike oil prices which we anticipate to rise in the years to come, given the dwindling supply of that commodity, we do not see this happening with rice commodities and hope to see a return to more agreeable process in the near future. Until then, the best we could say to address this matter, is to not buy into the hysteria that is being created."

Early this week the leading importer of rice in the CNMI, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., said the price of the staple will continue to increase until

the end of the year.

Its general manager, Francisco Barja, said the international rice market is facing a difficult situation with demand

## Museum donates parchment scroll to Eucon

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
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REPORTER

The Creation Museum, which is based in Dallas, Texas, is donating a parchment scroll dated from 1500 B.C. to the Eucon International College.

The valuable parchment scroll, which was made out of sheepskin during the Middle Ages, includes a section of the Old Testament manuscript.

According to college president Christian Wei, the Creation Museum's architect, Rev. Gary Zimmerman, is on island for a two-week visit to present the scroll and to do a lecture on Hebrew manuscripts, writings and preservations as well as Israel findings.

Wei said the college is encouraging all members of the community to take

outstripping supply and this has led to substantial price increases.

He added that rice-exporting countries like Thailand, China, India, Egypt, Vietnam, and Cambodia are hoarding their crops amidst droughts in China and Australia and production declines

part in the lecture and have a chance to see the parchment scroll.

"In a Jewish synagogue, people can only look at the scrolls but they are not allowed to touch them. I'm encouraging all Jewish people in the community and everyone else to have a chance to not just look at this scroll, but to touch it and actually hold it," Wei said.

The Creation Museum in Texas is the first museum in the world to have completed the entire collection of the Old Testament manuscripts.

"Rev. Gary has been collecting manuscripts for many years and now his foundation is the first in the world to have completed the Old Testament. It really is an honor to have him come all the way and speak to us," Wei said.

He added that Zimmerman's visit to

in the United States and Japan.

MBI is the leading importer of rice in the CNMI and sells class A Thai jasmine otherwise known as Hom Mali rice. MBI's brands—Royal Thai and Royal Harvest—are the market leaders on Saipan.

Saipan is that of a timely one as May 1 marks the anniversary of the Holocaust, the genocide of approximately six million European Jewish men, women and children during World War II.

It was part of a program of deliberate extermination planned and executed by the Nazi regime in Germany led by Adolf Hitler.

Wei is encouraging everyone to take part in the two-week event and to learn more about the Old Testament.

"In order for us to understand the New Testament, we have to first understand the Old Testament," Wei said.

The lecture is from April 30 to May 9 from 5:pm to 8:30pm at the Eucon International College.

Admission is free and everybody is welcome.




PRESENTS

# Godfather's Bar

# Club Billy Bones

# 2nd Annual CINCO DE MAYO BLOCK PARTY

# Chili Cook-Off

## Live music from GUAM: KOUFU BAND and JERRY and D'GIGLOS

## Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

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May 11, 2008 11:00am - 2:00pm

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20% Local Discount Applicable / No Duplicate Discount

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Overnight Stay @ Ocean Front View Room

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# Group wants Tina, Heinz ‘impeached’

Two lawmakers have been included on the list of elected officials that a citizen group wants “impeached.”

The Taotao Tano group yesterday circulated a letter calling for the “impeachment” of Representatives Christina Sablan and Heinz Hofschneider for alleged treason, neglect of duty, and disgrace in public office.

The pair joins Gov. Benigno R. Fitial whom Taotao Tano has also accused of committing the said grounds for impeachment.

“We the Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. hereby submit before you on behalf of the suffering, humiliated, betrayed, and disrespected local indigenous Northern Marianas descent people of the land of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a notice of intent to impeach from office the

[mentioned] individuals in the Executive and Legislative Branch,” stated a letter Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz hand-delivered to legislative members yesterday.

The letter also said the group will formally submit a request for impeachment on Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

Sablan and Hofschneider are co-sponsor of a bill calling for improved immigration status for long-term foreign workers in the Northern Marianas. Their two co-sponsors, Representatives Edward Salas and Victor Hocog, were not named in Taotao Tano’s “letter of intent to impeach.”

In a phone interview, Sablan said she respects the group’s right to express their dissent. She added that her door is always open to Taotao Tano or any group or individual who wish to discuss

with her their ideas and criticisms.

The Constitution empowers the Legislature to impeach erring executive and judicial officers. The House may initiate impeachment proceedings by the vote of two-thirds of its members and the Senate may convict after hearing by the vote of

## REBATE

From Page 1

lands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

As required by the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury had to approve distribution plans for “non-mirror code” territories (Puerto Rico and American Samoa ), and payment amounts to territories with “mir-

two-thirds of its members.

Lawmakers, for their part, are subject to recall. A recall petition must be signed by at least 40 percent of persons qualified to vote for the office occupied by the public official sought to be recalled. The petition should be filed with the attorney general, and upon certification, be submitted to the voters at the next regular general election. A recall

ror codes” (Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ). Puerto Rico’s distribution plan was approved on April 16, 2008.

The U.S government started depositing thousands of rebate checks in taxpayers’ bank accounts on Monday, earlier than originally scheduled, with the Bush administration hoping the payments will give a jump-start to a weak economy.

The Internal Revenue Service started

petition should take effect 30 days after the election if approved by two-thirds of the qualified voters.

Since House members serve two-year terms at a time, the recall process is not seen as a practical route for ousting House members from power.

Another route is for the House or Senate to expel a member. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

making the deposits Monday with the goal of completing 800,000 direct deposits each day over the first three days of this week.

The government’s paper checks will start going out on May 9, a week earlier than previously announced. The rebates, which are expected to reach 130 million households, range up to \$600 for an individual and \$1,200 for a couple. Families with children will get \$300 per child. (*AP/Media-NewsWire.com*)

## PETE

From Page 1

Congress-passed bill has been signed into law.

“I am very interested. There is no question about it. It’s a very challenging job, and it is consistent with the work I have done since my time as a negotiator of the Covenant,” said Tenorio.

But he added that he would not make an official announcement until the legislative process is complete.

The U.S. Congress has passed Senate bill 2739, which includes provisions to

grant the Northern Marianas representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would also have Washington take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

The bill now goes to the White House to be signed into law. Once enacted, an election will be held in November for the first CNMI delegate. This coincides with the U.S. general election.

“The delegate bill would make us almost full-fledged citizens,” Tenorio said. “We still cannot vote without first establishing residency in the United States, but after over 20 years of being citizens, we will finally have the oppor-

tunity to be heard in Congress.”

Tenorio said he expects the new position to attract a number of potential candidates.

Tenorio is serving his second term as the CNMI’s resident representative to the nation’s capital. The creation of a new delegate position will abolish the Washington Representative’s Office, and accordingly cut Tenorio’s term short by one year.

His current term expires in January 2010. The delegate to be elected in November will assume office in January 2009.

The bill, as passed by the House of

Representatives, proposes a November 2008 election for the first CNMI delegate. This coincides with the coming federal general election.

Under the delegate bill, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in the House.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years

before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

The CNMI delegate will receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a member of the House of Representatives. Each member of Congress is paid almost \$170,000 a year.

Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

## FOREIGN

From Page 1

that the passage was expected and that it was only a matter of timing.

“It again shows that the support in the U.S. Congress for extending federal immigration law to the CNMI is very strong, broad and bipartisan because it very easily got through the House the second time around,” Woodruff said.

The Dekada lawyer reiterated his earlier assertion that federalization is an important step toward bringing stability to the islands’ immigration policy.

The lawyer said the most impor-

tant thing is it shows how urgent and critically necessary it is for the CNMI to get its house in order to prepare for the transition to federal control of immigration.

Woodruff underscored the need for the CNMI to work intelligently and systematically with the federal government to make this change work for the Commonwealth.

“Ideas of suing over the legislation are useless, counterproductive, and an absolute waste of time,” he stressed.

What needs to be done, the lawyer said, is to work on the federalization’s implementation process.

“How it will be worked, how it will be organized administratively, what the

regulations are going to be, and having good communication with the federal agencies that are going to be involved in that,” he said.

The CNMI, Woodruff said, has to start building that relationship and participating in that process right now.

“And we ought to be doing it as a unified Commonwealth policy. It’s absolutely critical to the economy of the CNMI and the interest of businesses and workers alike that we make this effort,” he added.

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal said she is hoping that, with the passage of the legislation, illegal recruitment, human trafficking, unfair labor practices, and human rights abuses

in the CNMI will end.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Doromal said that, by next month, President Bush will sign the bill into law, “helping to establish social and political justice, human rights, and economic prosperity in the CNMI.”

“This is a law that is long overdue,” she stressed.

The human rights advocate said just as she always believed that federalization was inevitable, it is her opinion that a pathway to citizenship for long-term guest workers is inevitable.

Doromal said she would be working now to obtain a secure status for long-term guest workers.

“It would be in the best interest of

all CNMI residents to embrace this change that will provide just and equitable laws for everyone who calls the CNMI home. It is change that will pave the road to a secure future for all of the people who live and work in the CNMI,” she added.

For the Human Dignity Movement, its president, Jerry Custodio, is thankful to everyone who helped in their cause to support federalization.

“We hope and pray that it will be immediately signed by President Bush. We are very thankful to the U.S. Congress and especially to human rights advocate Wendy Doromal and Rep. Tina Sablan,” Custodio said.

## CONGRESS

From Page 1

By a vote of 291-117, the U.S. House of Representatives approved yesterday Senate bill 2739, which includes a provision to federalize immigration controls in the Northern Marianas. The bill also grants the Northern Marianas a delegate with limited voting powers in the U.S. House.

The measure now heads to the White House. Once the bill is received from Congress, President George W. Bush has 10 days to sign the bill into law. With Bush expected to approve the legislation, the federalization bill could be in effect within the next three weeks.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial deferred issuing comments on the passage of the bill, which his administration has opposed strongly.

“I am pleased with the enactment of the legislation providing for a Northern Marianas delegate in the House of Representatives. I am disappointed with the remainder of the legislation and may have further comments on the subject

in my State of the Commonwealth speech on Friday,” he said.

Pete A. Tenorio, the Commonwealth’s resident representatives to Washington, D.C., called the expected enactment of the bill “a new era for our government.”

“I am pleased with the passage of the bill, and I am sure most people will agree with me that this something we needed for a long time,” said Tenorio.

Rep. Tina Sablan, also a supporter of the bill, said she was pleased that “we’re one step closer to normalizing our labor and immigration.” She expressed hope that local officials and community leaders would now stop arguing the pros and cons of the bill and work together to make the new system work for the Commonwealth.

For the local business sector, hotel industry leader Lynn M. Knight warned of the bill’s massive implications which she said will not be fully understood until the bill is implemented.

“This legislation will put further strains on a small island economy that is already in a severe economic decline. We hope it will not hamper our ability

to recover,” said Knight, chairwoman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“Unfortunately, rather than taking the opportunity to give us tools to pick our economy back up, the bill does not offer any incentives to help mitigate the impacts it will have as it forces massive changes. Going forward, it is clear that we are going to need more help,” she added.

But Knight also said that HANMI is committed to working with the administration and the federal government on the education effort and on the drafting the implementing rules and regulations.

“We need to think as practically as possible about this, and business people can help think things through. We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us,” she said.

Jim Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail that he has nothing new to say on the bill. “It just passed the House as predicted and we will probably have nothing to say when the President signs it.”



# JAL: No plans yet to reinstate air service to NMI

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Two and a half years after suspending its regular air service to the Commonwealth, Japan Airlines still has no plans to reinstate the route, citing the destination's continued unprofitability.

According to JAL public relation manager Stephen Pearlman in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, the company's main goal right now is to maintain profitability in the face of rising operational costs.

"The overriding goal of our airline group is to build a robust management framework, a business structure which can produce profits even in the face of factors such as rising fuel costs or slowing demand. With this in mind, over the past years, we have been restructuring our international passenger operations, rebuilding our network by reallocating resources to high-profit, high-growth routes; whilst suspending low profit scheduled routes," Pearlman said.

As a result of this restructuring, JAL's daily scheduled flights between Tokyo and Saipan and Osaka and Saipan were both suspended in October 2005.

Pearlman pointed out that other routes serving mainly leisure destinations were also affected by the restructuring; some were suspended and the flight frequency of others were reduced.

While the restoration of regular air service is still out of the question, Pearlman said that JAL continues to serve the CNMI market via charter flights, which totaled 19 in fiscal year 2007 ending March 31, 2008.

"We still serve Saipan instead by using charter flights at times in the year when demand is high. It makes more economic sense for us to do this than to operate a scheduled year-round service which is under-performing," he said.

The JAL executive emphasized that the CNMI was not alone when the carrier decided to suspend scheduled flights to Saipan as many international flights also got the axe because of the general underperformance of JAL's international business.

"[It was] purely business reasons. JAL's international business has not been profitable for a number of years," he said.

Pearlman went on to detail the extent of losses the carrier incurred the past several years—¥30 billion in FY2004, ¥47.2 billion in FY2005, and ¥16.2 billion in FY2006.

He added that, although JAL is forecasted to record a ¥7-billion profit for FY2007, the carrier still has a long way to go before resuming some of the international flights it suspended in October 2005.

"...Even if we hit this [¥7-billion profit] there is still some way for us to go in terms

of restructuring our business," said Pearlman.

JAL has three charter flights

originating from Haneda bound for Saipan this Golden Week. The first one left last

April 26, with the second set to fly to the CNMI yesterday, April 29. The third is sched-

uled to depart Japan on May 3. Each plane will be a 372-seat Boeing 747 aircraft.



## This May at Hyatt Regency Saipan



### Celebrating Mother's Day at the Hyatt

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Saturday, May 10th, 2008

6:00pm - 10:00pm

\$45.00 per person

Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

#### Mother's Day Brunch at Giovanni's and Kili Cafe & Terrace

Mother's Day Brunch at the Hyatt is more than great food and exceptional service. It's time with your family and the person you care about the most - your mother. Treat her to our lavish brunch and say a big "Thank you".

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Kick up your heels and join the fiesta! Have a delicious meal with wonderful Mexican flavors, generously flowing beer and foot tapping music.

Monday, May 5th, 2008

6:00pm - 10:00pm

\$35.00 per person

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## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



### SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2008

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b> First 1,000 kWh Any kWh Over 1,000	\$ 3.50	\$ 0.000 \$ 0.044	\$ 0.176 0.176	\$ 0.176 0.220
<b>COMMERCIAL</b> (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.086	\$ 0.357	\$ 0.443
<b>GOVERNMENT</b> (All kWh Billed)	\$ 7.67	\$ 0.091	\$ 0.357	\$ 0.448
<b>NON-CONFORMING LOAD</b> (All kWh Billed)	\$ 56.00	\$ 0.222	\$ 0.357	\$ 0.579

#### HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

<b>JANUARY 2007</b>	\$ 0.196	<b>OCTOBER 2007 (Res)</b>	\$ 0.176
<b>FEBRUARY 2007</b>	\$ 0.188	<b>OCTOBER 2007 (All Others)</b>	\$ 0.228
<b>MARCH 2007</b>	\$ 0.188	<b>NOVEMBER 2007</b>	\$ 0.258
<b>APRIL 2007</b>	\$ 0.191	<b>DECEMBER 2007</b>	\$ 0.258
<b>MAY 2007</b>	\$ 0.222	<b>JANUARY 2008</b>	\$ 0.258
<b>JUNE 2007</b>	\$ 0.221	<b>FEBRUARY 2008</b>	\$ 0.253
<b>JULY 2007</b>	\$ 0.223	<b>MARCH 2008 (Res)</b>	\$ 0.176
<b>AUGUST 2007</b>	\$ 0.223	<b>MARCH 2008 (All Others)</b>	\$ 0.288
<b>SEPTEMBER 2007</b>	\$ 0.228	<b>APRIL 2008 (Res)</b>	\$ 0.176
		<b>APRIL 2008 (All Others)</b>	\$ 0.327

Pursuant to Public Law 15-94, the residential fuel rate is set at 17.6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

## 'Rescued man had many violations'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Tinian fisherman who was rescued Tuesday afternoon will be cited for several boating safety violations.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that Joseph M. Cruz will be cited for having an expired boat registration and failure to have safety equipment/devices on board. He also did not have a VHF radio or visual signals onboard.

DPS was informed that the U.S. Navy Hilo chopper had spotted the boat and Cruz on Tuesday at 4:30pm around 36 miles northwest of the Tinian Harbor. The 41-year-old Cruz was airlifted and brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment and observation. He was treated for dehydration and released.

Ogumoro said preliminary investigation showed that Cruz had dropped off three men on Goat Island at 11am that day.

The group agreed that at 1pm that day, Cruz would pick them up. When Cruz did not show up, one of the three men called Tinian DPS for help.

Tinian Boating Safety officers launched the Zodiac II rescue boat and headed to Goat Island, where they picked up the three fishermen. Ogumoro said all three fishermen were found in good condition.

Investigation showed that, after dropping off three men on Goat Island, Cruz had headed back to Tinian but the boat's engine died on the way. After several attempts to jump start it, the vessel's battery died and could not be restarted.

Ogumoro quoted Cruz as saying that he could not call for help as he had no VHF radio or

any visual distress signal devices such as flares, flashlight, or a flag aboard the boat.

"The DPS Boating Safety Section advises all boaters that their vessels be equipped with a VHF radio, visual distress signal devices, life jackets and other safety equipment should an emergency occur," she said.

Cruz was reported missing Monday night. Water and aerial search had been conducted to locate him.

The rescue teams were from the U.S. Coast Guard-Guam, Tinian DPS Boating Safety, Saipan Boating Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The U.S. Navy Hilo chopper initiated the aerial search.

Ogumoro earlier said Cruz was last seen operating a 17-foot blue and white bay liner boat bearing the number TCM-034.PU.

## New alien workers' group to hold assembly

A newly formed organization of alien workers of different nationalities will hold a membership general assembly at the Garapan Central Park this Sunday.

Irene Tantiado, interim president of Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI), said they are inviting all guest workers to attend the assembly to be conducted from 9am to 1pm.

In a brief statement, Tantiado said the coalition's mission is to seek legal means to improve the lives of the guest workers and their families in the CNMI.

"We want to create a new voice for the guest workers in our communities, the nation and in the changing times," she said.

Tantiado said that now is the time to unite and be part of a co-

alition that is run by guest workers and for alien workers.

"Families, friends and supporters are welcome to join," she said.

Sunday will be the fourth meeting of the new organization.

The coalition recently expressed full support to a bill that will allow long-time foreign workers to stay for five-year periods in the CNMI.

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### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Health Division of Public Health



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce the expansion of services to the island of Tinian beginning May 9, 2008. WIC staff will travel to Tinian at least twice per month to deliver services after this date. Applications may be picked up at the Tinian Health Center starting May 2, 2008. Please contact the Saipan WIC Clinic at 236-8750/8758 to schedule an appointment.

The CNMI WIC program has had a successful beginning, growing to approximately 2400 participants since the program began in August 2007. The WIC program is continuing to build capacity. CNMI WIC is currently building a new clinic on Navy Hill, Saipan and plans to expand to the island of Rota later this year. In the interim, USDA regulations (7 CFR Part 246) require that the CNMI WIC Program prioritize its current waitlist.

Effective immediately, the CNMI WIC Program will enroll eligible applicants in the following categories:

- Pregnant women
- Infants (0-12 months)
- Breastfeeding women (up to 1 year postpartum)

Postpartum, non-breastfeeding women and children ages 1-5 may be placed on the waiting list if requested. However, the Program does not have the capacity to make immediate appointments for children or postpartum women at this time, including those children who are reapplying because their current certification period has expired. As appointment slots become available, those placed on the waiting list will be contacted.

We appreciate your patience as we work to serve the community and the participants who are need of WIC services the most. If you are currently on the waitlist for children ages 1-5, please be advised that the Program will contact you as slots become available; however, we will not be able to predict when that would be.

As a reminder to current participants, please be advised that current enrollment does not guarantee continued enrollment in the program. Current participants must go through another certification. Appointments will be made according to the priority listings.

For more information about the CNMI WIC Program, please visit our website at [www.cnmiwic.org](http://www.cnmiwic.org).

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez  
Secretary, Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela  
Director, CNMI WIC Program



# Seabee group member donates 63-year-old plaque

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marie Soledad Castro, a member of the Association of Construction Battalion, donated a 63-year-old plaque made out of 95 percent Japanese warplane and 5 percent American warplane to the American Memorial Park Museum.

The plaque was given to her by her friend, James Olsen, who was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Battalion World War II Seabee.

"When he gave it to me and told me all about it, including where it came from, I told him I appreciate it but the place that the plaque really belonged to is at the Memorial Park Museum," Castro said.

There were a total of 384 members of the 101<sup>st</sup> Seabee Battalion who came to Saipan in 1944 right after the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Seabee Battalion helped rebuild the island by constructing roads, boat docks, bridges and other infrastructure.

While on island nearing Christmas Day, the battalion held a Christmas Party for approximately 300 native children.

The late Harry Olsen, who was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Seabee, recalled the event vividly and jotted down the experience in a letter before he passed away, stating that it was "a very memorable experience I can never forget."

In the statement shared by Castro, Olsen said that on Christmas Day in 1944 the 101 Seabee Battalion sent a convoy of trucks to the civilian villages and picked up 300 lively children ages 7 to 15 years old.

At the time, the children were



Olsen



Castro

living in confined areas of the island along with native adults until such time as the island was free of Japanese holdouts.

"All the children had just gone through a horrible time with all the bombing and most youngsters were left with a family," Olsen stated.

The children were brought back to the Seabee camp and were assigned to a Seabee who acted as his or her escort to the Christmas party.

The children were fed ice cream and cake, and had a special visit from Santa Claus. In

return the children sang native Christmas songs to the Seabees.

Castro was among the 300 native children. She said she was 11 years old at the time and that the experience is impossible for her to forget.

"That was the very first time I ate ice cream and it tasted so good," Castro said.

She never lost touch with her Seabee friends and attends the yearly reunion where she was made an honorary member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Seabee Battalion.

"They're all very kind veterans. And through the years, they all have treated me like a daughter," Castro said.

Olsen presented Castro the

plaque that he earned from his time served in World War II.

According to Castro, Olsen told her that he wanted her to have it because he was getting old and did not have any children.

"Many of them have already passed away, but they will never be forgotten. Without them, we would not be enjoy-

ing life on Saipan as we are doing now," Castro said.

AMP superintendent Sarah Creachbaum accepted Castro's donation and said the gift and the story should be shared with all those who visit the museum.

The plaque now hangs conspicuously on the wall in the lobby of the museum.

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# NMC re-launches its website

As part of its systematic effort to enhance students and the community's access to timely and useful information, services, and programs, the Northern Marianas College unveiled yesterday its newly-redesigned website.

The website offers some of the practical features as the previous site; however, NMC has made a more user-friendly interface with an updated look and expanded functionality. Current students can access course schedules, download individual degree plans, or directly access their email. Prospective students can peruse admission information, tuition rates, look for financial aid options, and request for brochures.

Community members are now able to look up career opportu-

nities, download forms, and also learn about the different projects currently being undertaken at NMC. Alumni members can download transcript request forms or sign up for the NMC Alumni Association.

"The website was designed with the guiding principle that students come first at NMC," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We wanted to make their online experience efficient as well as enjoyable."

"The new site is a vast improvement from the last one," said NMC student Jessica Wasisang. "Not only is it more interactive, but it is also much easier to find information and also learn about announcements and upcoming events."

The new website, located at

www.nmcnet.edu, also chronicles the faculty, staff, and students efforts toward meeting accreditation standards. This information has been placed on the home page to emphasize the importance of sharing the col-

## Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting a three-day live fire training exercise on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla starting today, May 1, until May 3, from 7am to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

lege's progress in this regard.

"While we are excited about the launch of the website. I wish to stress that its success will depend on its continuous improvement," said Adrian Atalig, NMC IT Director. "Any comments and suggestions on how to make the site better will be appreciated." (NMC)

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

Should you have any questions, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 01, 2000

### Petition begins for filing of class suit

A petition for possible filing of a class action suit against the U.S. government for the widespread contamination of polychlorinated biphenyl in Tanapag has now begun. Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, started the ball rolling last Friday with a call to island residents to attend a town meeting scheduled for May 8.

### 24 firms interested on Tinian airport project

At least 24 companies have signified intentions to participate in the bidding for the multi-million-dollar improvement of the West Tinian International Airport during an ocular inspection with Ports Authority officials Friday. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios and Executive Director Carlos H. Salas spearheaded the delegation to the island for a tour of different sites that are up for repair under the West Tinian International Airport improvement project.

### CNMI may bring case vs Continental to IAGI

The CNMI government may be forced to bring the problem it face on the unavailability of sufficient direct international flights between Saipan and Asian countries to the federally-established Inter-Agency Group on Insular Affairs. If this happens, the island's air transport service woes will be the first problem to be brought to the attention of the IAGI, a high level federal group created by the Clinton Administration to help insular areas achieve economic growth.

May 01, 2001

### On Saipan's garment sector US Congress sees true picture

Local garment industry officials are pleased that members of US Congress are now aware of the real conditions inside Saipan garment factories despite continuous attempts by the CNMI's critics to malign the industry. Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association Executive Director Richard A. Pierce lauded a recent "Dear Colleague" letter from US Rep. John T. Doolittle (R-California) recognizing the "overwhelmingly positive" improvements made in Saipan's garment companies over the last few years.

### HANMI bats for cleaner isles

The Hotel Association is calling on the government to raise environmental awareness levels to ensure that protection of the natural resources and promotion of tourism go hand in hand. "Tourism is not only about getting people to come over to our islands. It is also about ensuring that our visitors are provided a clean and safe environment," HANMI President Ronald D. Sablan said.

### Bill: Extend homestead permits to 10 years

Recognizing weaker consumer buying power due to economic difficulties, the legislators yesterday recommended the passage of a measure aimed at extending the effectivity of homestead permits up to ten years. Members of House Committee on Natural Resources who reviewed House Bill 12-186 endorsed its passage, citing the need to assist homesteaders in fulfilling the requirements that will allow them to keep their homestead lots.

May 01, 2002


### Double whammy for banking sector Bank of Saipan supports government intervention

The Bank of Saipan's board of directors has vowed to cooperate with a government move to appoint an outside expert to temporarily manage the banking institution's financial affairs, amid the latter's fears of depositors committing a bank run. Robert Goldberg, counsel for the BoS corporation, told Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan during a hearing yesterday afternoon that the bank supports the move to tap a "receiver" to oversee the bank's operations.

### Hong Kong Bank closing Saipan branch this year

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will close down its Saipan branch by the end of 2002, the HSBC Holdings Board announced yesterday. The decision is in line with the banking institution's move to reposition and reduce its operations in the Mariana Islands, HSBC Guam/Saipan Chief Executive Officer Guy Priestly said in a statement.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 122Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### No space for dissent

In the past few weeks, Cuban President Raul Castro has introduced a handful of micro-reforms to the oppressive and bankrupt regime left behind by his brother. Cubans are now officially allowed to buy cellphones, computers and microwave ovens; state workers may get deeds to apartments they have been renting for decades; and farmers may be able to sell part of what they grow at market prices. The measures won't have much impact (though they have evidently annoyed the officially retired Fidel Castro): The vast majority of Cubans can't afford to buy electronic goods, and the agricultural reforms fall short of steps taken years ago by North Korea.

The new leader's moves have nevertheless touched off a flurry of excitement and speculation among Cuba-watchers in the United States and Europe, some of whom have taken to comparing the 76-year-old Raul Castro to Mikhail Gorbachev. European apologists for the Castro dictatorship, led by the Spanish government, are clamoring for the European Union to restore normal diplomatic ties with Havana; Democrats such as Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, Conn., have renewed their calls for a lifting of the U.S. trade embargo, even as they campaign against free trade with democratic Colombia.

Unsurprisingly, such Cuba buffs haven't had much to say about another signal Mr. Castro sent last week after the Women in White approached his office in Havana's Revolution Square. About 10 members of the group gathered in a park at the edge of the square, saying they wanted to talk to the new president about their family members— independent journalists, intellectuals and political activists who were abruptly arrested and sentenced to long prison sentences five years ago during Cuba's "Black Spring." Fifty-five of the 75 dissidents rounded up then remain imprisoned, along with some 175 other political prisoners.

The women were not able to talk to Mr. Castro. Instead he dispatched police and scores of party thugs to the park to rough them up and hustle them into a bus. State media followed up with a propaganda campaign against the women, sporting the usual slogans. "There will be no space in Cuba," said the state newspaper Granma, "for adversaries, fifth columnists or internal mercenaries."

Yes, any Cuban who can spare a year's worth of the average salary may now buy and activate a cellphone. But there's little indication that Mr. Castro intends even the sort of change that has transformed formerly communist countries such as China and Vietnam into more prosperous dictatorships, much less a political opening. Here's a fair test: Let Mr. Castro respect the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights his government recently signed, which guarantees not only freedom of assembly but the right to freely leave the country. Cuban officials recently hinted that the current ban on foreign travel by average citizens might be changed; let it be removed. Then Mr. Castro can discover just how many of Cuba's 11 million people are willing to go on enduring a regime whose idea of reform is permitting the sale of microwave ovens.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH 4/08



## Saipan's QL Score

The last showing at Hollywood Theater was a closeout event before they closed down. What this means for Saipan is that we will have to now wait several months to watch newly released movies on DVD. Practically every person in the civilized world has a chance to see these movies right away on the big screen, but not here.

Closing Saipan's sole movie theater was a watershed for some that tipped the scales in an important evaluation that everyone subconsciously makes. Whenever you consider a purchase, you weigh overall value against the total cost. If the value exceeds the cost, you make the decision to purchase the item. Likewise, the benefits of living in a location contribute to the overall quality of life. If the quality of life score, or QL score, tips to the positive side, then you'll want to stay. However, if the scale tips toward the negative side, you start considering your options.

To evaluate the QL score for Saipan, you need to list all of the things that add to the score, and assign a weighted value to each, and then subtract the weighted value of all of those things that detract from the quality of life. The difference is either a positive or negative number.

There are a number of positive things that either brought you to the islands or kept you here like the climate, natural beauty, air quality, low traffic, friendly people, cultural diversity, great golf courses and diving sites. As a businessperson, you were probably attracted to Saipan because of the low wages, low taxes, and high tourist numbers. List all of the things that you feel add to your quality of life and then place a weighted score between 1 and 10 by each item, with 10 meaning a very high quality of life for you. Next, add all the numbers.

Now, let's consider those things that detract from your quality of life on Saipan. Next to each item, give a weighted score between 1 and 10, with 10 being very negative. If you're like most people, unreliable power tops your list. Not only is it upsetting to not have basic utilities, but the frequent outages have cost individuals thousands of dollars in destroyed air conditioners, computers, televisions and other electronic equipment.

For businesses, it has cost them tens of thousands of dollars in lost sales. And the opportunity cost has been inestimable when it comes to negative word of mouth from tourists having a disappointing experience, or investors backing off because of the lack of basic power. We can't even compare our situation to a Third World country because that would be an insult to all of the developing countries with reliable power. Plenty of blame can be spread around on things like rising oil prices, the government's ineptness, faulty generators, or mismanagement. Whatever the cause, the result is still the same—unreliable power and a huge detraction from the QL score.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC ([www.bizresults.org](http://www.bizresults.org)). They can be contacted at [biz\\_results@yahoo.com](mailto:biz_results@yahoo.com).



Other factors that can drop the quality of life are rising fuel prices and the associated price increase of all goods due to higher shipping costs. Other disappointing aspects are red-flagged beaches, and litter strewn along the roads, beaches and other public areas. A government position was once considered the crème de la crème of jobs on island because the pay was much higher than the private sector, the retirement program was unbelievable, and the travel, flexibility, and other perks couldn't be matched. That situation has changed dramatically in the last few years. The Retirement Fund's ticking time bomb could implode in less than a decade and the defined contribution plan offers a pittance of what it replaced. Don't forget looming threats of layoffs, austerity holidays or across the board pay cuts that will shrink a paycheck that has already eroded from the insidious affects of inflation.

Once you've made your list, and totaled the amount of each score, take the total positive numbers and subtract the total negative amount. This gives you an overall quality of life score. If it's positive, congratulate yourself for viewing the many positive aspects of life in paradise as greater than the negative factors. Obviously, the higher your score, the better your quality of life.

However, if your score is negative, your quality of life could range from uncomfortable to miserable. On the low negative side, you are dissatisfied and may be considering your options. If your QL score is a moderate to high negative number, you've mentally packed and have updated your resume, or you've already booked your flights and are just waiting for the kids to finish school before you go to the land of milk and honey with 24/7 electric power.

We suspect that the balance has tipped for many somewhere on the negative scale, which is extremely sad, considering all the opportunities and assets our "leaders" have been unable to capitalize on to make this the ideal tourists destination it should become. Unless something is done soon to reverse the trend, the "doom and gloom" outlook that seems to permeate the news and daily discussions will cause Saipan's best and brightest to weigh their options and leave; allowing the status quo politicians to continue unimpeded on a course that will auger us in.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Government's failure to meet financial obligation to Fund Costly to both taxpayers and retirees

**T**here are just some things you can't escape no matter how hard you try and one is the reputation you get when failing to pay your debts when you should be trying to keep your credit and investment reputation intact. The central government's neglect in meeting its financial obligation to the Fund and continued refusal to pay the millions it owes to members can have a long-term negative effect on all taxpayers. This adverse impact could come to pass over future bond ratings whenever the government seeks to raise capital through the issuance of general obligation or revenue bonds.

Like everything else, the poorer your reputation in paying your debts is, the higher the cost of raising money will be in the end. Ultimately, in terms of bond financing this added cost translates into short-sightedness on the part of the government as eventually the cost will be transferred to the taxpayers one way or the other. This is one of the possible adverse effects of the NMI government's continued stalling of the members of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan (DBP). Here's why.

If you are a retiree or a government employee planning on retiring or even if you are a disinterested taxpayer—I know this is not the most interesting reading—but bear with me, it's about money.

Governments often raise money by issuing revenue bonds to finance certain projects. These bonds are based on the guarantee of repayment entirely from revenue generated by a particular government-owned, income generating activity involving capital expenditures for infrastructure such as a power plant or air or sea port. Usually, any government agency that is run similar to that of a business (at least in theory) that generates its own operating revenues and expenses is in a position to issue revenue bonds should the Legislature agree to undertaking such public indebtedness.

Another type of borrowing that some governments use to raise money are known as general obligation bonds. These are also used when governments pledge future tax revenues to repay bond holders. Usually, but not always, tax revenues generated by imposing a real estate tax are pledged to make the repayment. Obviously this is not possible in the NMI at this time—but wait awhile when the politicians start scraping the bottom of the barrel for additional revenue.

Credit rating agencies such as Fitch, Moody's, Standard & Poor's and others assign credit ratings to governments for certain types of debt obligations as well as to debt instruments (bonds). A credit rating for an issuer (government) takes into consideration the government's credit-worthiness, that is, its past history in paying (or not paying) its debts and its ability to pay back a loan. These factors in turn affect the interest rate applied to the bond and its desirability as an investment for those who purchase the bonds.

A bond is a promise to repay with interest on specific dates the money that an investor has loaned a government (or company). For the investor, government bonds are usually considered safe and conservative as they can provide a predictable income stream when stocks perform poorly. They are therefore preferred instruments when an investor does not want to place his or her money at risk in some other investment such as the corporate stock of some

companies (remember Enron, Global Crossing, Tyco International and WorldCom frauds).

Here's where the NMI government's neglect of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan comes in which could be much to the disadvantage of not only the retirees but all taxpayers as well.

If the NMI government doesn't have a good credit rating which can be influenced by many factors—among them failure to pay its legal obligation to the Retirement Fund—then it can be costly for all NMI taxpayers in the future when the need for bond financing is desired for certain projects at a time when the government's own revenue is either limited or unavailable from traditional sources. Such

knowledge is essential for political leaders claiming to be capable of exercising “self-government.”

We live in complicated and interconnected times—not at all like the old days. When the government influences a policy or program in one area such as failure to meet its financial obligation to its own defined benefit Retirement Fund, this action can have unanticipated, unintended, long-range and expensive consequences on government bond ratings.

Bond rating companies might take one look at the “payment holiday” law the NMI Legislature passed relieving the central government of its financial obligation to make its employer contributions to the Fund for a period

of time and say, “Whoa! If a law can be passed in the NMI permitting the government to avoid paying its financial obligation, they can do the same thing with us. A law could be passed not to honor the terms of a bond commitment as previously agreed.”

Thus, there is the potential for greater risk to the bond holder (real or imagined) of the possibility of non-payment for which the NMI government has already provided ample evidence. Blaming the problem on previous administrations or someone else might work sometimes with the voters but the excuse won't work with investors.

Taxpayers ultimately pay in the form of higher fees and interest costs on public debt often in amounts of millions of dollars. Some government borrowers are often required (forced) to buy insurance policies to safeguard their bonds in the event they fail to pay their debt. This is another added cost. You guessed it—these insurance policies are very expensive and you already know who pays in the end.

The highest bond rating and therefore the best is AAA, while a rating of BB+ to D signal increasingly greater levels of credit risk. However, the rating system may be undergoing change as even U.S. Treasury bonds may be downgraded—but that's another story.

Wait, there's more.

On the subject of insurance there's still another example of the negative result of government policy on the members of the Retirement Fund's DBP and it concerns the member's “self-financed” group life insurance program. If there is no functioning

**❖ If the NMI government doesn't have a good credit rating as influenced by failure to pay its legal obligation to the Retirement Fund, it can be costly for all NMI taxpayers in the future when bond financing is needed for certain projects. ❖**

**❖ If there is no functioning Retirement Fund, there can be no reduced 'group' life or medical health insurance premiums for retirees. ❖**

**By WILLIAM H. STEWART**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.*



Retirement Fund, there can be no reduced “group” insurance premiums. Currently the typical life insurance group rate per month for a single person is about \$30. For health and medical coverage for a family of two, the group rate could cost about \$250 per month. When the Fund's group rate is no longer available and retirees have to engage their individual private source for coverage, look for huge increases in cost. More importantly, chances are that pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, heart conditions, cancers, etc., will not be covered by private companies. Think about that as still another unintended consequence of the actions of the central government and the Legislature.

The Fund's actuarial consultants recently briefed the Legislature on the short and long term deteriorating financial condition of the Fund as based on the government's neglect which could—in just a few years from now—simply cause the Fund to close down, possibly within eight to 10 years or even less. This event will surely have a serious impact upon the member's existing life insurance policies and requires immediate answers to the following questions:

1. Has any thought been given to continuing the member's life insurance program for those participants in the Fund's defined benefit plan after it dries up and pensions are no longer paid?

2. How will the members pay their insurance premiums when there is no Fund from which their “pre-paid” deductions can be made?

3. Most important, how will each member's previous investment in the group life insurance program be fairly (repeat fairly) accommodated to compensate for the long-term premiums they paid in over many years of payroll deductions?

If the NMI government has considered these ramifications of their policy to stiff the Fund's members, I'm not aware of it.

Knowing a bit how insurance companies work and the predatory instinct of some (not all), the above issue has the very real possibility for taking unfair advantage of the situation to the extreme detriment and expense of the retirees if not fully evaluated beforehand.

Remember this, except for the impact of external forces on the economy over which the NMI had no control, if the government was so expert in the management of its internally generated money, it wouldn't be in the financial mess it's in today. I refer to the \$3.07 billion in NMI revenue between 1986 and 2004 and the \$393.6 million in Covenant money.

Long after those officials responsible have departed the political scene, the above issues loom with potentially serious results because of the lack of foresight on the part of the central government and the Legislature, past and present, and their joint neglect of the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan. Sad indications of the government's inability to “pLAN AHEAD.”

## Letters to the Editor

# Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

The letter writers in opposition to the proposed “National Park of the Sea” all seem to be afraid to mention the full name of the local coordinator of this proposed project, Angelo Villagomez. There, I said it. Angelo Villagomez. Do you know Angelo Villagomez?

Angelo Villagomez was born here and his family is here. He is Chamorro. This is his home. His father was the late Justice Ramon G. Villagomez, a man I am proud to call my mentor.

Angelo Villagomez helped me and several others launch Beautify CNMI! I'm sure you've seen him in the newspaper, on TV, or on the Internet. Or maybe you've heard him on the radio?

For over two years, Angelo Villagomez has helped Beautify CNMI! coordinate beach cleanups, road cleanups, tree plantings, paint over graffiti, restore historical sites, clear hiking trails, plan and facilitate meetings, and host other events, such as our recent concert with Jake Shimabukuro, that help to make these islands a better place to live and visit.

Angelo Villagomez brought a level of enthusiasm and energy, not to mention talent, that launched Beautify CNMI! into the stratosphere. I am convinced that Beautify CNMI would not be what it is today without him.

Angelo Villagomez is now proposing a project that would create

federally funded local jobs, give a needed boost to our struggling tourism industry, bring positive worldwide attention to our shores, and most importantly, protect three of our islands and their surrounding waters for generations to come.

I support the proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument and my only hope is that it is not too late for us to have the opportunity to dialogue with the Federal government on this proposed project.






**Cinta M. Kaipat**  
*Founder, Beautify CNMI!*



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼75

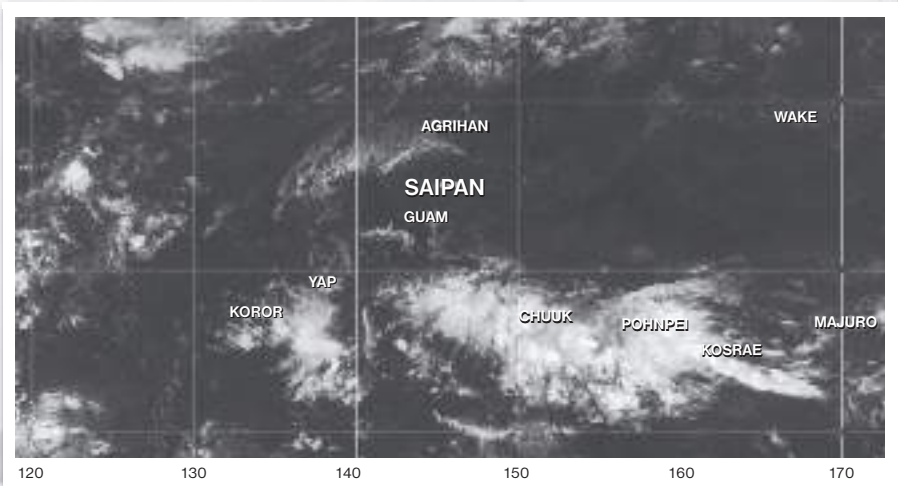
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼60
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼78
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲79 ▼72
London	Showers	▲57 ▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72 ▼52
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲91 ▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲64 ▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼72
New York	Rain	▲62 ▼48
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼58
Paris	Showers	▲56 ▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲77 ▼58
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼50
Salem	Cloudy	▲57 ▼43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲61 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲69 ▼50
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼59
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲71 ▼57

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:42AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
4:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:23PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



#### PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from a circulation centered near 25N137E to 22N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along this boundary and northward to beyond 25n. A surface trough runs southwestward from 10N140E to EQ134E. Upper-level divergence is combining with convergent trade winds near the trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just east of Koror and over Yap between 6N and 12N from 135E to 145E. Another surface trough stretches southward from 8N146E to EQ144E. Convergent low-level winds and divergence aloft are coupled to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in Yap and Chuuk states along and up to 300 miles east of the trough. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 150E to 160E. This area includes Chuuk and Pohnpei. Scattered trade-wind showers are also occurring just north of Kosrae between 6N and 8N from 160E to 164E. A weak surface trough extends southwestward from 5N167E to 2N163E. Scattered showers are found south of Kwajalein and Majuro between 2N and 5n from 165E to 172E. Convergent trade winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 50 miles of a line from 2N172E to 2N180. This area includes Butaritari and Tarawa.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54AM	6:35PM
Friday	5:53AM	6:35PM
Saturday	5:53AM	6:35PM
Sunday	5:52AM	6:35PM
Monday	5:52AM	6:36PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:19AM	2:25PM
Friday	2:58AM	3:19PM
Saturday	3:38AM	4:16PM
Sunday	4:21AM	5:16PM
Monday	5:08AM	6:20PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya  NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror  CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Letter to the Editor

# A great opportunity for the CNMI

The indigenous people of the CNMI are suffering. The economy is bad, gas prices are at an all time high, and many of us are having a hard time putting food on the table. The garment factories are leaving, tourism is down, and government coffers are empty. The CNMI needs something, anything really, to turn these islands around.

Then suddenly, out of nowhere, the Pew Environment Group appears with their Ocean Legacy project and their proposed "National Park of the Sea." This is not a floating hotel, a peanut butter factory, a shoe factory, or any other fly-by-night operation, the likes of which seem to find our shores on a pretty regular basis. This is the Pew Environment Group, part of the Pew Charitable Trusts. They are one of the most prestigious, respected non-profits in the world. They are here to help us facilitate a discussion with the federal government about creating what would be one of the most significant protected areas in the world.

This proposed project is also different because we will eventually be dealing with the federal government, not some fly-by-night company we've never heard of. Let's get something straight first, though. The controversy the CNMI is now having related to labor and im-

migration is with the Democratic Congress, not George W. Bush. When we enter into discussions with the federal government, we will be talking to the Bush administration, not the Congress. The federal government is basically opening up their hands to give us an opportunity to use our natural resources to create economic activity in those uninhabited far northern islands. What economic activity is going on there now?

This protected area, when it is created, will also help open up our culture and our islands to the world. One day people around the world will recognize Hafa Adai and Tirow, the way they recognize Aloha. Won't that make you proud?

One of the arguments I've heard against the proposed project is that our Constitution already protects the land. The park we are looking at is from the shoreline out to 200 miles out. We don't have jurisdiction over the water, so even if we wanted to protect it, we couldn't do so with the involvement of the Federal government. Now we get to take that chance to. We get to protect our water and our land. Are we going to give up this opportunity, which might not come again?

I've also heard that it would prevent fishermen. Well, there is still plenty of water in which to fish. This is only three islands, which are over 300 miles away

from Saipan. There are 11 other islands where we can fish. There probably aren't more than five boats going up there anyway.

We need to protect something for the indigenous, like what Hawaii has done. If they made some mistakes in creating their monument, how can we create our monument so that we don't repeat those mistakes? If you don't like what happened in Hawaii, why not focus on how we can make our monument better, instead of fighting each other over the issue? Why can't we improve on what they've done?

I've done some research into the Hawaiian experience with their monument. Over 100,000 comments were taken before President Bush declared their monument. After the monument was created, 57,000 comments were taken in order to draft regulations. Now they are looking for comments on the draft regulations.

There are many more benefits. The feds will train local people, pay for a boat, and funding. There will be increased opportunity for research and education, too. This is too great an opportunity for the CNMI and our people to pass on. I urge you to support this proposed project.

**Ignacio Cabrera**  
Papago, Saipan



## ACCOUNT MANAGER

### Responsibilities:

- Manage entire sales cycle for assigned accounts
- Aggressive and active in competitive accounts, knowledgeable regarding competition and industry trends
- Identify, articulate, and implement products, solutions, and services to customer requirements
- Articulate and position full spectrum of PTI products, services, and solutions to key departmental decision makers
- Develop and implement business plan for client base to identify, sell, and support incremental Value added services and/or products in existing PTI accounts
- Propose and close engagements that will achieve total revenue growth (sale and annuity), profit, and customer satisfaction plans

### Requirements:

- Bachelors degree in business or relevant experience (highly preferred)
- 2 years sales experience (Office Automation Systems, Computerized solutions, Telephony Systems)
- Fluent in English written and verbal
- Fluent in Korean written and verbal preferred
- Proficient with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Effective presentation skills
- Strong negotiation skills
- Excellent relationship builder
- Organized team selling
- Legally authorized to work in the CNMI and can travel to Guam on business

**Human Resource Office**  
**PTI**  
**P.O. Box 500306**  
**Saipan, MP 96950**  
**670-234-6600**

PTI is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by PTI Human Resources on or before May 5, 2008.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## INVITATION FOR BIDS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION CUC-IFB08-003

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING SLOW SAND FILTERS PROJECT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB08-003. Bids in six sets (including original) will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan until 2:00 P.M., on, May 23, 2008, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

**The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation of the existing slow sand filters, related plumbing, installation of qualitative measurement devices such as Turbidity Meters, Residual Chlorine Meter, related small pumps, electrical controls, and a new control room to house the metering devices adjacent to the Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI.**

A non-refundable payment of \$300.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 25, 2008 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 A.M., on May 9, 2008, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to **Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 Ext. 111/134** or Larry Manacop Water Division Engineer at extension 155.

**ANTHONY C. GUERRERO**  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai  
Saipan, MP 96950



## INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-015

### Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center (Medical-Non-Medical & Dental)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipments for Rota Health Center**, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 17, 2008 at Quick Print and Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Quick Print and Post, in the amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 21, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Oleai Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-015**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 27, 2008, and must be received no later than June 5, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 30, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funding derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 15-12, D1 FY 2001.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred and fifty dollars (**US \$150.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**  
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
Director of Procurement and Supply



## Letters to the Editor

## Don't give up control

I've read with interest all the folk who are in favor of the Pew national marine monument around the top three islands of the CNMI. Millions of dollars in ecotourism, a huge revenue generating visitor center, worldwide recognition of the CNMI as a green place etc. The best was the two writers that said the local fishermen would use gasoline to drive their boats up there. Any boat that could make it there and back will not have a gasoline engine. Not understanding this simple fact shows the proponents are people who know little about life around the ocean. You cannot have an informed opinion unless you have knowledge of that which you are talking about. How many boats currently fish these islands for reef fish? I'm guessing it's close to zero. That's really all a monument will protect; pelagic fish are just that—pelagic. Look it up if you don't know what it means.

I wonder how many of you have been to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, had any experience with the life there or how the people that control the monument interact and conduct themselves. The NWHI monument actually took jobs away from citizens and contract workers. Midway Atoll had a thriving eco-tourism business (catch and release fishing, bird watching and nature tours) that employed over 100 people and it shut down due to restrictive rules. Windsurfing and surfing were not allowed that's how contorted the rules became. I worked and lived on Midway for two seasons. Now there is no virtually no employment there, and dozens of other jobs that supported the Atoll are now gone also.

The islands of the proposed PEW monument are not visited by tourists now, nor will they be if it is a monument. How many people go up there annually now can probably be counted on your hands and toes, and a good percentage of those are scientists already. The CNMI controls the islands, and that's the way it should stay. Nothing good will happen if it gives up control.

William McCue  
Wellington, FL

## Shortchanging the community

It is very frustrating to learn that the Senate rejected the bill to repeal the lowered utility rate. This week, two members of the Senate came out saying that PUC should be the one to set the rate.

This position is very cowardly and an irresponsible one. Who changed the rate in the first place? According to the local newspapers a senator is quoted saying, "Even if we repeal the law (by passing House Bill 16-79), whose rate are we going to follow?" Weren't you part of the group that not only passed a bill lowering the rate but overrode the veto?

I am not for a higher utility rate. What needs to be done is to overhaul CUC. We need to stop making it a dumping ground for political payoffs for one. CUC must be made to operate as a business. Power generation can be a money-making operation.

As for the PUC, c'mon, the last I heard, they do not have an of-

## 'We are not satisfied with the judges' decision'

The Inetnon Atten Attistan Luta (IAAL) of Rota is not satisfied with the judges' overall decision placing the group as second place winner for booth competition held last Saturday, April 26, during the 27<sup>th</sup> Flame Tree Arts Festival event.

Based on this year's festival theme, "Showcase Our Inheritance," the IAAL group did their very best to showcase cultural inheritance by displaying and portraying family living narrated by Lourdes Manglona as mother (*nāna*) in the family with her children during the presence of the judges.

Showcasing our cultural inheritance included live demonstration of *boñelos dāgu* cooking by Julita Calvo, coconut leaf weaving by Maria Mesngon, and herbal medicine processing by Carmen Toves. Cultural attire was also worn by Julita and Carmen. Other sibling played by Natividad Barcinas welcomed the presence of the judges by offering *boñelos dāgu*.

To understand our dissatisfaction, allow me to narrate the content of IAAL's booth on that day. As you enter our booth, the theme: "Fata I Irensia-ta" ("Showcase Our Inheritance") hangs at the door entrance including woven palm fronds, betel nut bunches, and woven birds hanging on each side. From the entrance, you also see the dining table as this is first on the display. A tefan (table cover) is used to cover the dining table where local delicacies is neatly arranged on woven bowls and platters (*āla*, *guagua*, *bandehan hāgon niyok*) such as *saibok dāgu*, *hineksa' katupat*, *titiyas*, *tinala' katne*, *tinala' guihan*, and *alaguan haguaf*. *Alaguan haguaf* is placed on coconut shell cups (*tāsan ha'iguas*) and ready to drink. Drinking water was also available in local decanters (*bongbong pi'āo*). Completing the table setting, pandanas plates (*plāton pahong*) and bamboo cups (*bāson pi'āo*) were also available.

In the middle of the booth was another table where many household items were also on display such as *mitāti* and *mānu* (stone grinder and pestle), *pāsu* (clay pot/urn), *la'uyan papa* (pot with wings surrounding), *putot* and *lommok* (mortar and pestle), *lusong* and *lommok* (stone mortar and pestle), *prensan lulok* (metal iron), *kotot*, etc. Also on the same table was the demonstration of herbal medicine.

Inside the booth on the left corner was the bedroom display of items such as the *kabiyon* (mosquito net), *guafak* (sleeping mat),

and *kanastran magāgu* (cloth basket), etc.

The right corner was the kitchen where *boñelos dāgu* was cooking. Under the stove was the display of a small pile taro root crop supply for the family. To its left was the palm leaf weaving demonstration.

On the left wall was the display of fishing net (*talāya*) and local artwork collection mounted on four separate wooden frames depicting family basic necessities such as *kamyo*, *niyok*, *tenedot ha'iguas*, *plāton pahong*, *guagua*, *haguet*, *karetan guaka yan guaka*, *tuhong gunot*, *doggan gunot*, *magāgon mestisa*, *tinifok flores rosat*, *kadena*, etc.

On the right wall hung the 20 feet long woven flower curtains. Curtains were handwoven flower design made from palm leaves and da'ok seeds assembled on strips. Each strip was six feet long and neatly attached to wooden poles.

During the whole judging process, our entire family worked together to demonstrate and portray our culture. We thought we grabbed it all the way. But yet, we were given the second place. This is not fair!

Later, we were told why IAAL booth did not win first place for the following reasons: 1.) IAAL should have won first place if only there were live animals. Excuse me! We have our Tinala' Katne and beef is from cow. Isn't it? So why bring live animal to the booth. Logically, there is no need to go this far or is it stated on the criteria? Besides we had some live demonstrations. 2.) One of the siblings played by Natividad Barcinas, the youngest child in the family, offered *boñelos dāgu* to the judges while the mother was narrating the displays to the judges. *Ombre ga'chong!* This is a combination of reality and welcoming into our home. Isn't it true that when you come upon a home that still portrays the olden days, the first thing you notice is that you will be offered something to eat or drink. *Ombre ga'chong!* This is local tradition and if you don't experience it, of course how can you give IAAL the first place winner?

By the way, did any of the judges notice small details like for instance all our displays come with labels—the name of each item using our mother's tongue? Isn't this promoting our diminishing Chamorro language?

Lourdes Manglona  
Member, IAAL of Rota

## The dividers

*Minabuti kong gamitin ang ating sariling wika ng sa gayon ay hindi na kumalat at mabasa pa ng ibang lahi ang mga nakakahiyang nangyayari sa atin. Ako po ay isang matahimik na manggagawa sa CNMI na sumusuporta at nakikisimpatiya sa mga taong tumatayo para ipaglaban ang kapakanan ng mga manggagawa. Hindi po ako miyembro ng alin mang organisasyon subalit naniniwala akong ang pagkakaisa ay isang malakas na sandata para maisulong ang mga magandang layunin, katulad ng nangyari ng isinagawa natin ang makasaysayang Unity March na lubos na sinuportahan ng lahat. Sana'y ipagpatuloy na lamang natin ito at hindi na kayo nagtatag na naman ng bagong organisasyon na tinawag ninyong Coalition of United Guest Workers. Alam ninyo Bb. Irene Tantiado, Gg. Jerry Custodio at iba pang nasa likod ng samahang ito na kayo po ang gumagawa ng dahilan ng pagkakahiwa-hiwalay at pagkakawatak-watak ng mga manggagawa? Alam ninyo rin ba na nakakahiya ito? Lubos ba ninyong nauunawaan na sa ginawa ninyong ito ay nakita na ang tunay ninyong mga kulay? Ang kailangan ninyo po ba ay credit at popularidad? Masakit man pong aminin sa parte ninyo ay hindi po kayo kinikilala ng mga matatahimik na manggagawa dito sa CNMI dahil kayo ang nagpapagulo. Huwag ninyong sirain ang magandang imahe ng Unity March. Sinabi mo Bb. Irene Tantiado sa nauna mong sulat sa letter to the editor that you acknowledge and appreciate the huge contributions of our fellow guest workers who have been involved much earlier on. Bakit iba ang sinasabi ninyo sa inyong ginagawa? Sa ganang amin po lamang ipagpatuloy natin ang magandang imahen ng Unity, isa puso natin ito, sama-sama nating suportahan ang kinikilala at may napatunayan ng naumang grupo na nakikipaglaban sa usaping ito. Pakiusap lamang po, huwag na nating hayaang maging magulo pa ang maayos na pagkakaisa. Prinsipyo at respeto lamang po.*

Sherilyn Francisco  
Susupe, Saipan

## Kudos to CRM

As a resident of Afetna, I am enthusiastic about a sign of "better times." Any time of the day, night or weekend I see CRM enforcement staff forcing roadside vendors to get documented, intercepting illegal taxis, removing abandoned vehicles from the road, cleaning trash and litter, and helping reduce vandalism, while managing CNMI resources. The work of these guys to make Afetna, San Antonio and other neighborhoods better, safer and cleaner keeps my faith alive. Thank you CRM enforcement staff for showing the meaning of public service.

Thomas I. Duenas

## Join the movement to protect our islands' natural resources.



Plastic bags can last for hundreds of years and many shoppers use 3 or more for their groceries. It's a major environmental problem when plastic bags end up in our marine waters that eventually lead to the suffocation of marine mammals and sea birds. On land, plastic bag litter can block drains and trap birds. They also kill livestock. Plastic bags are also commonly found in nearly all beaches on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The bags end up in landfills and emit harmful greenhouse gases.

**Do your part by helping to reduce the use of plastic bags. It's simple and easy to use cloth bags! And you can be a winner!**

Bring your own bag when shopping at any Joeten Store or Carmen Safeway and you will receive a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate.



This message is brought to you by the Division of Environmental Quality.  
Call us at 664-8500 or visit us at [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp) today!



# 'There is no reason not to compensate daycares'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao said there is no reason for DCCA not to compensate center-based childcare providers if they have submitted required documents and other pertinent documents.

"Compelling reasons for the childcare providers not receiving payments could be attributed to providers not meeting the deadline for submission, not submitting required documents

such as W-9 forms and other pertinent documents such as attendance log sheet for affected clients," Faisao said.

Another reason why center-based childcare providers have not received payment is that a meticulous review by a department reviewer spotted errors in the submissions of childcare providers.

Members of the CNMI Daycare Association have complained of delays in the issuance of payments by DCCA. When they finally received their February checks, they said there

were many new deductions that had not been there when the program was still under the Public School System.

Faisao said it is surprisingly alarming that the providers still don't comprehend that DCCA will compute the actual hours that the parents worked or attended education and the child was placed at the childcare center.

"As it was clearly provided to all childcare providers (center base) that attended the April 22, 2008, meeting at Office On Aging Conference Room, as long as the parents can provide a

documentation that he/she was working at place of employment/attending school on any official holidays or school break days; then there is no reason for DCCA not to compensate the providers," Faisao said.

He added that the childcare fund is an assistance to low-income families, whenever they attend school or working at their place of employment which should be commensurate with the child attendance sheet from the (center base) child care provider."

CNMI Daycare Association

Masina Leuta said the association plans on writing a letter to the Regent IX National Child

Care Information Center.

"Hopefully they can give us some answers," Leuta said.

## 200 trees planted along Saipan coast

Several organizations and concerned citizens participated in the DEQ Plant A Tree - Beach Cleanup activity held Friday, April 25.

Some 200 coconut trees, fan palms, foxtail, and hibiscus trees were planted along the coastlines of Paupau, Tanapag 13 Fishermen, Kiliki, Lali 4, and San Antonio beaches.

Trees fight soil erosion, conserve rainwater, and reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms. Trees, also, absorb and lock away carbon dioxide.

This year's theme, 'Reefs enrich our health, our wealth, our lives' and so DEQ, together with its partner organizations conducted a variety of activities to demonstrate that every act

counts (no matter how small) and that each act can also protect our reefs.

In addition to the planting, participants removed over 1000 pounds of debris.

Special thanks to Seventh Day Adventist School, Palms Resort Saipan, NMC-CREES, DLNR -Agriculture, DLNR Parks and Recreation, Saipan Mayor's Of-

fice, Bureau of Environmental Health, NRCS, MVA, CRM, World Resort Saipan, Historic Preservation Office, DPW, Paseo de Marianas (PDM) Promoters and Pacific Islands Club for taking an active step in protecting our natural resources.

The planting and cleanup was part of DEQ's environmental awareness celebration. (DEQ)

## GVB honored as outstanding PATA member for 50 years

**TUMON, Guam**—The Pacific Asia Travel Association international board of directors held its biannual meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka from April 4 - 7, 2008, and the Guam Visitors Bureau was honored, along with 33 other organizations, for being members in good-standing for over 50 years. The accolade was bestowed during PATA's Annual Meeting Welcome to Sri Lanka Dinner, hosted by Sri Lanka Tourism on April 5.

During the biannual PATA meeting, Guam Visitors Bureau general manager Gerald S.A. Perez was also elected to the 11-member Board Executive Committee. This is another marker of the long-term commitment between GVB and PATA. Guam and GVB are looking forward to many more years of productive partnership with PATA and

its members.

Established in 1952, PATA has worked as a catalyst for promoting travel to the Asia Pacific region for 56 years. The organization provides a forum for Asia Pacific countries and islands to network, share information, ideas, and support one another. PATA acts as a liaison between the travel and transportation industries, advocating to improved services and facilities for visitors to the Pacific area. An invaluable partner in the tourism industry, PATA also provides members with the latest statistical information regarding travel trends and tourism development that affects our region. GVB is proud to be a committed member of PATA.

A full listing of all PATA honorees can be found on their website, at [www.pata.org](http://www.pata.org). (GVB)



### HERO OR GLORY SEEKER?

Ohana Gabaldon sits at her home in Old Town, Fla. Friday, April 4, 2008, where mementos of her husband, Guy, fill the walls. Guy Gabaldon, inset, has been hailed a hero for capturing more than 1,000 Japanese during the bloody battle for Saipan in 1944. Of Mexican and Spanish descent, Gabaldon grew up in East Los Angeles and befriended a Japanese family in his years growing up. He used the Japanese language to coax soldiers and civilians out of Saipan's caves, telling them that their only chance for survival was to follow him to U.S. lines. The feat earned Gabaldon celebrity, with the film "Hell to Eternity" made on his story and an episode of "This is Your Life" dedicated to the diminutive but outspoken Marine. He received a Navy Cross, but never a Congressional Medal of Honor,



an award he and his family believed he deserved. Gabaldon is dead, but the effort to get him a Congressional Medal of Honor continues. A new documentary questions why he has not received one for his heroism, with its narrator wondering aloud if his Hispanic heritage had something to do with it. But other Marines who fought on Saipan have questioned whether Gabaldon was just a glory seeker who exaggerated his actions on Saipan.



Gerald Perez, GVB General Manager, receives the award from outgoing PATA chairman Brian Dees.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB08-DPW-060**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENTS  
AND PARTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"**

COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**  
Acting Secretary of DPW/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**  
Director, P&S

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION May 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to a court ordered **Writ**, issued by the Superior Court in Civil Action No. 05-0257, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA") together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety, shall auction off to the highest bidder **Two (2) Boats: (1) a 1977 15.35M, Cabin, Fiberglass Boat, M.V. Hope-Cert. No. CM-953-CF; and (2) M.V. Four Winds-Cert. No. CM-951-CF.** A list, with detailed description of the properties listed may be obtained at CDA's Office in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Commonwealth Development Authority, Wakin's Building, Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan on May 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.;**
4. The Boats are currently dry-docked at the Port, and may be inspected at any time during business hours which are convenient to CPA, by prior arrangement with CPA;
5. The **Buyer** at auction will be responsible for removing boats and complying with any US Coast Guard requirements for their removal within thirty (30) days;
6. The **Buyer** at auction agrees that if he or she fails to remove a purchased boat within the prescribed time limit of thirty (30) days, that he or she agrees to be responsible to **CPA** for any boat storage fees which have accrued from the date of the auction;
7. Terms of the sale are cash or certified check; and
8. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Greg P. Calvo, Loan Officer, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2008

Commonwealth Development Authority  
/s/Oscar C. Camacho  
Acting Chief Executive Officer

**COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147  
Email: [administration@cda.gov.mp](mailto:administration@cda.gov.mp) • Website: [www.cda.gov.mp](http://www.cda.gov.mp)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Position: Accountant II**  
Salary: PL 27/01 - \$19,511.46 Opening Date: April 29, 2008  
to PL 27/05 - \$23,706.21 P/A Closing Date: May 13, 2008

**Position: Accountant III**  
Salary: PL 29/01 - \$21,506.41 Opening Date: April 29, 2008  
to PL 29/05 - \$26,131.39 P/A Closing Date: May 13, 2008

**Location: COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,  
SAIPAN**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office in Gualo Rai Saipan or the Office of Personnel Management during working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Garapan, Saipan no later than 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

Inquiries may be directed to Christy N. Kintol, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6245 or by email to [administration@cda.gov.mp](mailto:administration@cda.gov.mp).

/s/  
Oscar C. Camacho  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



# Business

## BP, Shell post big profits

LONDON (AP) -- BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Europe's two biggest oil producers, posted forecast-busting first-quarter earnings on Tuesday thanks to record crude oil prices that are expected to bolster profits across the industry.

The combined profits of \$17 billion reignited calls for a windfall tax on oil profits as consumers struggle to pay for food and fuel.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown suggested that some of those profits should be reinvested in costly exploration for new oil

reserves in the North Sea.

BP posted a 63 percent surge in first-quarter net profit to \$7.6 billion (4.9 billion euros), while Shell reported a 25 percent rise, to a record \$9.08 billion (5.81 billion euros).

Revenue at BP jumped 44 percent to \$89.2 billion (57.1 billion euros), while sales at Shell soared 55 percent to \$114 billion (72.95 billion euros).

Last week ConocoPhillips reported a 16 percent rise in net income to \$4.14 billion. Like BP and Shell, the third biggest U.S. producer far

outpaced industry expectations. More big profits are expected from the biggest two U.S. companies, Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp., when they report first-quarter earnings later this week.

Crude oil hit \$111.80 per barrel during the quarter, while gas jumped an average of 22 percent. Crude has pushed even higher since, reaching a record \$119.93 per-barrel this week.

BP shares jumped 6 percent to 613 pence (\$12.18), while Shell rose 4.5 percent to 25.83 euros (\$40.39).

## Oil drops as demand falls

NEW YORK (AP) -- Oil prices fell more than \$3 a barrel Tuesday as the market absorbed data showing demand is falling even as supplies are

rising. Meanwhile, gas prices inched higher at the pump, continuing their record-breaking press toward \$4 a gallon.

A monthly Energy Depart-

ment report said demand for finished petroleum products dropped 8.5 percent in February from January, and demand for gasoline fell by 6.2 percent. Though some of that drop can be attributed to February's being a shorter month, it still suggests high prices are cutting American's appetite for fuel.

At the pump, the national average price of a gallon of unleaded gas rose 0.4 cent Tuesday to a record \$3.607 a gallon Tuesday, according to a survey of stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Diesel prices rose 0.1 cent to a new record national average of \$4.244 a gallon.

Many analysts expect gas prices to peak within the next month, and some say they could rise as high as \$4 nationally. Many parts of the country, particularly in California and Hawaii, are already paying more than \$4.



Chris Spataro watches meter rise as fills up his car which requires premium gas at a station in the Fairbanks Ranch area of San Diego County Tuesday, April 29, 2008, in San Diego. Spataro paid \$4.39.9 per gallon which resulted in over \$57.00 to fill up his car.

## Consumer confidence drops in April

NEW YORK (AP)—From soaring gas prices to weaker job prospects, Americans are gloomier about the economy than just before the U.S. invasion of Iraq. They're so anxious that fewer people say they are planning to take a vacation than in 30 years.

And those are worrying signs for the already deteriorating economy, since eroding consumer confidence foreshadows weaker spending.

A widely watched measure of sentiment dropped to a five-year low in April, the fourth straight month of declines. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 62.3 in April, down from a revised 65.9 last month and 76.4 in February.

That was in line with the ex-

pectations of Wall Street economists, but leaves the index at its weakest point since it registered 61.4 in March 2003, ahead of the Iraq invasion.

"There isn't a lot for the consumers to be optimistic about,"

## Stocks mixed with investors wary

NEW YORK (AP) -- Wall Street turned in a mixed performance Tuesday as investors traded cautiously ahead of the Federal Reserve's Wednesday decision on interest rates.

The Fed, facing a faltering economy but also rising inflation, is expected to cut interest rates by another quarter point after its two-day meeting concludes Wednesday. Many investor believe policy makers will then signal that

said Gary Thayer, senior economist at Wachovia Securities.

Economists closely watch sentiment readings since consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

they are planning to hold rates steady for a while.

Consumers have been worried about inflation because it means energy and grocery bills are harder to pay. Wall Street is also concerned, because inflation tends to curtail consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the U.S. economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 39.81, or 0.31 percent, to 12,831.94.

The biggest drag on the Dow was the component Merck & Co., which sank \$4.30, or 10.4 percent, to \$37.14 after saying the Food and Drug Administration refused to approve a new cholesterol drug called Cordaptive.

# Nation

## Bad conditions at Ft. Bragg prompts wider Army probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Army officials said Tuesday they are inspecting every barracks building worldwide to see whether plumbing and other problems revealed at Fort Bragg, N.C., last week are widespread.

Brig. Gen. Dennis Rogers, who is responsible for maintaining barracks throughout the Army, told reporters at the Pentagon that most inspections were done last weekend but he had not seen final results.

While not providing specifics about problems discovered during the weekend inspections, Rogers indicated some deficiencies were corrected. In cases where extensive repairs are deemed necessary, the soldiers in that housing would be moved elsewhere until the fixes are completed, he added.

Rogers said it was too soon to know whether the Fort Bragg problem was an isolated incident. He acknowl-

edged the revelations from a video shot by the father of an 82nd Airborne Division soldier showing poor conditions such as mold inside the barracks, peeling interior paint and a bathroom drain plugged with sewage.

The soldier's father, Ed Frawley, said he was disgusted by the conditions that greeted his son and the rest of his 82nd Airborne unit that returned on April 7-8 after a 15-month tour of duty in Afghanistan.

## Obama distances self from pastor

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Barack Obama angrily denounced his former pastor for "divisive and destructive" remarks on race, seeking to divorce himself from the incendiary speaker and a fury that threatens to engulf his front-running Democratic presidential campaign.

Obama is trying to tamp down the uproar over the Rev. Jeremiah Wright at a tough time in his campaign. The Illinois senator is coming off a loss in Pennsylvania to rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and trying to win over white working-class voters in Indiana and North Carolina in next Tuesday's primaries.

"I am outraged by the comments that were made and saddened over the spectacle that we saw yesterday," Obama told reporters at a news conference Tuesday.

His strong words come

just six weeks after Obama delivered a sweeping speech on race in which he sharply condemned Wright's remarks

but did not leave the church or repudiate the minister himself, who he said was like a family member.

## Scientists seek clues as Reno earthquakes keep on shaking

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno are scrutinizing seismic readings and studying damage at residents' homes to try to figure out what's happening beneath the earth's surface under a northwest Reno neighborhood rocked by a seemingly endless string of earthquakes.

What they can't say is whether the hundreds of temblors that have rattled the area for two months—the largest a magnitude 4.7 Friday night—are subsiding or a prelude to bigger things to come.

"You're not going to get an earthquake prediction today,"

John Anderson, director of Seismology Laboratory at the University of Nevada, Reno, said Tuesday during a briefing with Gov. Jim Gibbons and emergency managers on the seismic activity.

Scientists are calling the swarm of temblors that began Feb. 28 the "Mogul earthquake sequence", in reference to the neighborhood where hundreds of mostly minor earthquakes have occurred.

But the shaking is unusual, seismologists say, because the intensity of the quakes has increased over the past few weeks. Generally, earthquakes tend to occur and are followed by smaller aftershocks.



## ACROSS THE NATION

### FLDS teen gives birth to boy as state officials stand by

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP)—One of the hundreds of young polygamist-sect members taken into state custody gave birth Tuesday to a healthy boy while child welfare officials, state troopers and fellow sect members stood watch outside the maternity ward. "The boy is healthy and the mother is doing well," Patrick Crimmins, spokesman for the state Child Protective Services, said of the noontime birth at Central Texas Medical Center. The mother is "younger than 18," Crimmins said, and will remain with her new son in a nearby foster-care facility until a formal custody hearing will determine the pair's fate sometime before June 5.

### Rescuers amazed that 6 twisters caused no deaths in Va.

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP)—It was a scene of hazardous destruction that stretched for 25 miles: Row upon row of homes reduced to sprays of splintered lumber, shopping centers stripped to bare metal, parking lots turned into junk yards. And yet no one died. "The only thing I can say is we were watched over and blessed," Fire Chief Mark Outlaw said. As residents and res-

cuers returned Tuesday to survey the wreckage from six tornadoes, they were amazed by both the scope of the damage and their good fortune. Even among the 200 people who were injured, most suffered only cuts and scrapes.

### Newspaper carrier finds woman pinned by husband's dead body

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Newspaper carrier Bruce Pitts knew the elderly couple only by the prayers the wife made for him while he was working at night and in bad weather, but he felt something was wrong when the papers piled up outside their home. "It was never like them to leave a newspaper in their tube," Pitts said Tuesday. "That wonderful, small voice inside me said, 'This isn't right.'" After his route early Sunday, Pitts went home, napped briefly and, with his wife, returned to Blanche and Fred Roberts' home, just outside Marion, Ill. They repeatedly rang the doorbells but got no answer. Pitts then eased open an unlocked side door and saw the couple about two feet inside, 84-year-old Blanche Roberts helpless looking right back at Pitts. Her right leg was pinned beneath the body of her 77-year-old husband Fred, who apparently had died last Wednesday evening of a heart attack after mowing the lawn.

EXCHANGE RATES	
DOLLAR	PESO
\$1.00	= P42.26



## Asia

# China sentences 30 to jail over Tibetan riots

BEIJING (AP)—Six Buddhist monks were among 30 people sentenced by a Chinese court Tuesday to jail terms ranging from three years to life for taking part in deadly riots in Tibet.

The punishments were the first to be meted out by a Chinese court against Tibetans accused of taking part in a frenzy of assaults, burning, looting and vandalism mainly targeting Han Chinese and their businesses in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and nearby areas between March 14-16.

The violence and subsequent government crackdown drew worldwide attention to China's human rights record and its rule in Tibet ahead of the Beijing Olympics. Celebrations marking 100 days to the start of the games take place Wednesday.

The sentences were announced during two sessions of a one-day trial at the In-



To coincide with the arrival of the Olympic torch, a local activist paints over a memorial to Beijing's Tiananmen Square Massacre in orange to symbolize freedom and human rights in Hong Kong, China, Wednesday, April 30, 2008. With 100 days to go, the battle has been lost to keep politics out of the Beijing Olympics.

termediate People's Court of Lhasa, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. China Central Television's evening newscast showed the convicts being led out by police with bowed heads in front of a packed courtroom.

Xinhua said three men received life sentences, including a Buddhist monk identified as Basang who allegedly led 10 people, including five other monks, to destroy local government offices, burn down shops and attack policemen.

## Arroyo: Philippines needs to import rice until 2013

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said the Philippines will need to keep importing rice until at least 2013 to make up for a domestic shortfall, despite plans to make the country self sufficient.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting Tuesday, Arroyo said the Philippines has been importing rice for a long time, but soaring international prices

make it imperative for Manila to consider growing enough to feed itself.

"The world price of rice is expensive," Arroyo told reporters. "We might as well produce our own rice and keep the money in our country."

But Arroyo said this might not be achievable until at least 2013 because "we really cannot put attention to long-run policy when we have a near-term solu-

tion that we need to address."

The Philippines—one of the world's biggest rice importers—has been paying record prices on international markets after some rice-producing countries imposed curbs on exports to guarantee their own supplies. The price of rice from Thailand, the world's biggest exporter, topped US\$1,000 per metric ton this month, triple the January price.

disappointed the Philippine government, but its chief negotiator, Rodolfo Garcia, said Kuala Lumpur would hopefully continue its role as a mediator. "Malaysia has performed its role well as a facilitator, and it would be a big disservice to the peace process if Malaysia, aside from pulling out from the International Monitoring Team, pulls out of the negotiations," Garcia told ANC television.

### RP military court discharges 5 involved in coup try

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A military court discharged five junior army officers Tuesday who were linked to a coup attempt against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo five years ago. The court's decision followed the officers' plea bargain early this month to escape a mutiny conviction, which is punishable by 40 years in prison. The court convicted three officers of unbecoming conduct. The three men are facing separate coup charges in a civilian court and won't be immediately released from detention despite being discharged. The two other officers were convicted of conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline and sentenced to 7-1/2 years in jail. They are eligible for release because they already spent time in detention. Arroyo still has to approve the court martial's decision.

### PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

#### RP Muslim rebel base overrun by army

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops captured a base used by al-Qaida-linked militants on a southern island after heavy fighting Wednesday, a military commander said. In a pre-dawn barrage, troops bombarded the Abu Sayyaf camp on Jolo island with artillery and mortar fire. About 300 Philippine marine and army commandos battled around 200 militants, overrunning the camp by 7 a.m., said marine Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, commander of military forces on the island. There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side. "I think they are planning to do something big, so we beat them to it," he said, describing the operation as a pre-emptive strike.

#### Philippines hopes Malaysia will keep mediating

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines expressed hope Wednesday that neighboring Malaysia will continue mediating between the Manila government and Muslim rebels despite announcing a decision to pull out its truce monitors. Malaysian officials cited a lack of progress in the long-running peace talks for its planned withdrawal of some of about 60 unarmed observers deployed in the southern Philippines since a 2003 cease-fire began. The decision has

## World

# Captive Austrian family reunited

AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP)—In an "astonishing" scene, members of an Austrian family terrorized by decades of incest and imprisonment met for the first time at a clinic where psychiatrists are helping them recover, authorities said Tuesday.

Details of the emotional gathering emerged as police said DNA tests confirmed Josef Fritzl is the biological father of his daughter's six children.

The retired electrician confessed Monday to imprisoning his daughter Elisabeth for 24 years in a warren of sound-proofed cellar rooms, sexually

abusing her, fathering seven children with her and discarding the body of an one, who died in infancy, in a furnace.

Three of the children were locked in the underground labyrinth with their mother for years and had never met their other siblings or grandmother, who lived upstairs.

Hospital officials said Elisabeth, five of the children and Fritzl's wife Rosemarie spent their first moments together Sunday.

"It is astonishing how easy it worked that the children came together, and also it was astonishing how easy it happened that

the grandmother and the mother came together," clinic director Berthold Kepplinger said.

Now 42, Elisabeth was 18 when she was imprisoned in the secret annex her father built beneath his apartment in Amstetten, a working-class town 75 miles west of Vienna.

Under the circumstances, she and the children were doing "quite well" in the care of a team of specialists, Kepplinger said.

One of the children, a 19-year-old girl, was in critical condition and undergoing dialysis at another hospital, and was not part of the reunion, hospital officials said.

# Concentration camp doctor tops list of the 10 most wanted Nazis

BADEN-BADEN, Germany (AP)—Karl Lotter, a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Mauthausen concentration camp, had no trouble remembering the first time he watched SS doctor Aribert Heim kill a man.

It was 1941, and an 18-year-old Jew had been sent to the clinic with a foot inflammation. Heim asked him about himself and why he was so fit. The young man said he had been a soccer player and swimmer.

Then, instead of treating the prisoner's foot, Heim anesthetized him, cut him open, castrated him, took apart one kidney and removed the second, Lotter said. The victim's head was removed and the flesh boiled off so that Heim could keep it on display.

"He needed the head because

of its perfect teeth," Lotter, a non-Jewish political prisoner, recalled in testimony eight years later that was included in an Austrian warrant for Heim's arrest uncovered by The Associated Press. "Of all the camp doctors in Mauthausen, Dr. Heim was the most horrible."

But Heim managed to avoid prosecution, his American-held file in Germany mysteriously omitting his time at Mauthausen, and today he is the most-wanted suspected Nazi war criminal on a list of hundreds who the Simon Wiesenthal Center estimates are still free.

Heim would be 93 today and "we have good reason to believe he is still alive," said Efraim Zuroff, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's top Nazi hunter. He spoke in a telephone interview from Jerusalem ahead of the center's plans to release a most-wanted list Wednesday, and to open a media campaign in South America this summer highlighting the \$485,000 reward for Heim's arrest posted by the center along with Germany and Austria.

According to an advance copy of the list obtained by the AP, the most wanted, after Heim, are: John Demjanjuk, fighting deportation from the U.S., which says he was a guard at several death and forced labor camps; Sandor Kepiro, a Hungarian accused of involvement in the wartime kill-

ings of than 1,000 civilians in Serbia; Milivoj Asner, a wartime Croatian police chief now living in Austria and suspected of an active role in deporting hundreds of Serbs, Jews, and Gypsies to their death; and Soeren Kam, a former member of the SS wanted by Denmark for the assassination of a journalist in 1943. His extradition from Germany was blocked in 2007 by a Bavarian court that found insufficient evidence for murder charges.

The hunt for Heim has taken investigators from the German state of Baden-Wuert-

temberg all around the world. Besides his home country of Austria and neighboring Germany where he settled after the war, tips have come from Uruguay in 1998, Spain, Switzerland and Chile in 2005, and Brazil in 2006, said Heinz Heister, presiding judge of the Baden-Baden state court, where Heim was indicted in absentia on hundreds of counts of murder in 1979.

Thousands of German war criminals were prosecuted in West Germany after World War II. In the 1970s Western democracies began a hunt in earnest for Eastern European collaborators who had fled West claiming to be refugees from communism, and the end of the Cold War gave access to a trove of communist files in the 1990s.



Heim

## Nearly 200 in Zimbabwe are released

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Police on Tuesday released nearly 200 people who were arrested last week in a raid at opposition headquarters, while President Bush called on Zimbabwe's neighbors to step up the pressure on longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

Many of the 215 people arrested on Friday had fled to Harare to escape mounting violence and intimidation in rural areas that used to be ruling party strongholds but turned against Mugabe in the March 29 elections.

Twenty-nine people, mainly women and children, were released almost immediately. The rest were freed from various police stations in the capital Tuesday in accordance with a High Court order issued Monday, opposition defense lawyer Alec Muchadehama said.

One month after the vote, results from the presidential election still have not been released.

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# Environment

## Environmental Expo



Javier Olopai explains what a red flag means.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two students are impressed with the energy booth.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CUC demonstrates its microscope used to detect bacteria in water samples.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library graciously hosted 800 students, DEQ and 28 environmental organizations from the private and public center at the annual Environmental Expo on both

April 8 and April 9. The Expo was an opportunity for both students and teachers to gain hands-on demonstrations about energy efficiency from DPW, water sampling from CUC and

DEQ, environmental enforcement, pesticide management and many more. Students also received a free "Protect our reef" magnet or coral reef placemat.

## Plant-a-Tree and Beach Cleanup



SMO and MVA pitch in and plants trees along Kilili Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC planted five coconut trees at the San Antonio Beach.

Several organizations and concerned citizens participated in the DEQ Plant A Tree - Beach

Cleanup activity held on Friday, April 25. 00 coconut trees, fan palms, foxtail, and hibiscus trees

were planted along the coastlines of Paupau, Tanapag 13 Fishermen, Kiliki, Lali 4, and San Antonio beaches. In addition to the planting, participants removed over 1,000 pounds of debris. Special thanks to Seventh Day Adventist School, Palms Resort Saipan, NMC-CREES, DLNR -Agriculture, DLNR Parks and Recreation, Saipan Mayor's Office, Bureau of Environmental Health, NRCS, MVA, CRM, World Resort Saipan, Historic Preservation Office, DPW, Paseo de Marianas (PDM) Promoters and Pacific Islands Club for taking an active step in protecting our natural resources.

## Marine Conservation Puppet Show Performances

Rota High School Marine Conservation Puppet Show Troupe performed in all Rota Schools for EarthDay and International Year of the Reef 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



After months of planning, practice and preparation, on April 16-17, Rota High School Students visited Sinapalo Elementary, Rota Junior High, Escuelan De Borja San Francisco and Grace Christian Academy to show "On the Sasanhaya Reef," a locally produced puppet show production focusing on marine conservation. Illustrating traditional Chamorro themes, the message conveys that we should all think about how our own behavior affects the future health of our coral reefs and fisheries. The puppet show was sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service, CNMI's Coral Reef Initiative, Division of Environmental Quality and Rota High School. Many thanks to Liz Manibusan, Lihla Noori and Scotty Moen for working so hard to guide the students in producing this exceptional marine educational event. The puppet show is currently being aired on Rota's Channel 5, and copies will be shared with Saipan and Guam environmental agencies.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marine Conservation Puppet Show Troupe is well received by Rota students.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota High School Puppet show educates youth about taking care of our coral reef and leaving fish for tomorrow.

## East Harbor Underwater & Shoreline Cleanup



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Recent Rota Community Fisherman's Group Meeting discusses the adoption of a community based fisheries management approach.

A hundred youth and adult participants cleaned Sasanhaya Bay boat access area on Friday, April 18. Snorkelers from Rota High School and

Rota Junior High School free dove for underwater trash including several large tires, while Division of Fish and Wildlife and Departments of

Lands and Natural Resources removed metal and cans from the shoreline. An estimated 3,000 pounds of debris was removed from the site.



# Life & Style

## From Hollywood zero to tights-clad superhero

By **RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ**  
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

To become a mega-movie star these days, a man must don the tights. With a few notable exceptions like Leonardo DiCaprio, who had the good fortune to be in the highest-grossing movie of all time (that would be "Titanic"), almost every \$20-million man has done his time as a caped crusader, masked marvel or some popcorn equivalent, such as a pirate or extraterrestrial G-man.

Now it's Robert Downey Jr.'s turn.

The 43-year-old ex-junkie, ex-con, Oscar-nominated professional entertainer is renouncing his title as the talent most likely to disappoint, everyone's lovable screw-up, the walking cautionary-tale. He's assuming the mantle of "Iron Man," another in a long line of comic book renditions, which hits theaters Friday, kicking off the summer movie season.

Given Downey's years as a reigning wit, an unflappable, unpredictable screen presence, the thought of him soaring the skies in a red metal suit and bopping bad guys is a little depressing to someone over 25, except for Downey seeming so darn happy about it. Really, really happy. Relieved. Maybe even grateful.

He's about to barnstorm the world on a month-long "Iron Man" tour, and he's genuinely thrilled. Finally, he's the headliner—the one with his mug on dolls and Slurpee cups. "It's feeling the support of the machine of the industry and all that behind you. You know, supporting what you busted your ass doing," he explains.

### Redemption

Life is finally good.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

With "Iron Man" Robert Downey Jr. is back on the industry's radar.

He's not dead. He's not on drugs. As recently as five years ago, Downey had to pay for his own insurance to even appear in a movie, and now a studio is banking a huge franchise on him, and the buzz-o-meter is off the charts. As Tony Stark, debonair super-nerd weapons tycoon turned superhero, he's playing a character who is essentially a PG-riff on his persona—he's decadent-lite, a self-indulgent high-flier who wakes up at age 40 and decides to do good. In the film, Stark is captured by guerrillas in Afghanistan, realizes how the arms he's been pushing for the last decades are creating more harm than good and develops a techno-suit that allows him to fly, shoot fire and escape his jail cave. It's an origin story, refashioned as a coming-of-middle-age saga—Stark sets out to atone for his life of sin—but will he be redeemed?

Art imitating life, anyone?

### Climbing Back

Downey's sober re-ascension of Hollywood is a far cry from the guy who was once arrested while driving his Porsche down Sunset Boulevard naked, chucking phantom rats out the window. The years 1996 to 2000 flashed by in a blur of drug arrests and failed drug tests, capped by a year's stint in California state prison after he violated probation. He re-emerged in television's "Ally McBeal," won a Golden Globe and was fired after he tumbled off the wagon and was arrested for cocaine and methamphetamine possession.

After a year in rehab, he began rebuilding his career again, eventually nabbing more interesting movies such as "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," "Good Night, and Good Luck," "Zodiac" and



To become a mega-movie star these days, a man must don the tights.

"Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus." Still, no one was thinking of him to top-line a would-be commercial juggernaut, and "Iron Man" didn't exactly drop in his lap.

"Much to my surprise, I really didn't fit any of the criteria for the kind of actor they thought they should cast," Downey says.

As it turned out, he brought along his bag of amusing tricks—upgrading the character's flip awareness—adding subtext and sizzle when there wasn't any.

Producer Kevin Feige, who's also president of production for Marvel, remembers being distinctly underwhelmed by the first list of potential Iron Mans sent over by the casting director. "Nothing popped for us," he says. Director Jon Favreau, who had popularized retro-cool in "Swingers," made a mainstream hit with "Elf" and had been brought on to give the film some hipster panache, was fiddling with something on the bookshelf when a name sud-

denly dropped from his lips: "Robert Downey Jr."

"We both went, 'That's interesting,'" Feige says. They quickly dismissed the idea, but it lingered.

As it turned out, Downey wanted the part but wasn't exactly sanguine about his chances. After he met with the Marvel team, its then chieftain Avi Arad walked him to his car and told him, "You're a real craftsman." It felt like one of those very kind brushoffs—Downey suspected his casting in "Iron Man" was unlikely.

But he didn't give up. "Nowadays, I really, really trust synchronicity," Downey says. "It's not just one way. There's a whole realm of possibilities. Everything is so connected that it's not one single event that determines anything. I refused to not champion myself for this. I said to Jon (Favreau), 'If you don't mind, I'm just going to keep imagining this is possible.'"

"There were people in our company who directly said, 'No. You can't (cast Downey). Next,'

Feige says. They started looking at alternatives, but Favreau and Feige also set about making the case for Downey. They called the insurance companies, which had no problems with Downey anymore because he had been clean for five years. They called colleagues who vouched for him. The filmmakers pointed out that even the family-friendly giant Walt Disney had no problem putting Downey in "The Shaggy Dog."

The room warmed to Downey—but still the actor would have to screen test for the part, the first time since his Oscar-nominated performance in "Chaplin."

### Fully Prepared

Given his spark-flying mind, it's easy to assume that Downey ad-libs what he does on screen, quipping, prancing, dancing with effortless humor. Ironically enough, however, when auditioning for "Iron Man," he prepared for the test of his life.

Not that he likes giving away his trade secrets. "I'm a

little far out with my methods, but it works for me," he says, explaining that he believes in energy and "the feng shui of it all." Still all the mysticism appears grounded in basic hard work, memorizing lines so thoroughly that "literally if you woke me in the middle of the night I could tell them as quickly as I could tell you my driver's license. Then I write it out illegibly so as I think I'm knowing it, if I can read it in this kind of gobbledygook then I actually know it. Then I write it out in an acronym so that the first letter of every word is just a cue. And then I literally read that as fast as I can read it because I'm training my subconscious now to respond to it."

Then he checks himself and annotates the script with notes about the action's subtext or alternate lines, which he hopes are funnier or more poignant.

"His mind works so fast, and his thought process continues in such a unique way. He's able to make these brilliant connections—metaphors spring out and he's able to stay right on scene," says Feige, who got to see Downey Downey-ize the character. "A lot of it was in the script, and it sounds like he's riffing. A lot of it was riffed. Most of it was 'branched out' from what was written."

It's dizzying to hear the meticulousness of Downey's routine, but somehow the very laboriousness is what Downey seems to crave. Routine, rules, a pattern. As he talks, he drops shards of what seems to anchor him—his wife, his helpers, wing chun kung fu, a psychological commitment to the present, to not over-mythologizing what goes on in his life. That purposeful centeredness applies even to what he calls his "Red Sox experience" of landing the role in "Iron Man" after years of wandering in the psychological and professional desert.

"The problem was I could have gotten so stoked that I ran out of steam and wound up being sick for the two first weeks." Now he's learned to manage the crazy expectations of his own psyche.

"I just kind of honestly feel that this is just kind of like me making good on the promise of my late teens in a way," he says, and he's going to savor every second of the delayed blossoming, not just the work but the hoopla, the autographs, the machine of fame that once threatened to pulverize his soul. "Every day between now and the end of the month for me is like a kind of closure on this incredibly, ridiculously tough and wonderful and awesome and ghastly experience of coming to L.A. 25 years ago."







## Meirelles' 'Blindness' to open Cannes

PARIS (AP)—“Blindness,” a Fernando Meirelles movie starring Julianne Moore, will open this year’s Cannes Film Festival, organizers said Tuesday.

Based on a novel by Nobel laureate Jose Saramago, it’s about a city where inhabitants inexplicably go blind, one by one. Moore stars as the sole person to keep her sight during the ordeal. Mark Ruffalo, Danny Glover and Gael Garcia Bernal co-star.

Barry Levinson’s “What Just Happened?,” about a Hollywood producer struggling to make a film, is scheduled to close the festival. It stars Robert De Niro, Bruce Willis, Robin Wright Penn, John Turturro and Sean Penn.

Festival organizers said Tuesday that De Niro also is slated to present the top Palme d’Or prize at the end of the festival May 25. It kicks off May 14.

Organizers also said two additional movies had been added to lineup, bringing to 21 the number of films in competition: James Gray’s “Two Lovers,” a romantic drama starring Joaquin Phoenix and Gwyneth Paltrow, and “Entre les murs” (“Between the Walls”) by Laurent Cantet.

Other films in competition - announced at a Paris news conference last week —include Clint Eastwood’s “Changeling,” a mystery starring Angelina Jolie, and Steven Soderbergh’s “Che.”

Overall, the 61st edition of the Riviera festival features fewer big-name directors and more emerging voices from across the globe than in previous years.

## Prosecutors decline to charge Vanilla Ice

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Authorities decided against prosecuting Vanilla Ice for a domestic battery charge since his wife recanted her original statement.

The 40-year-old performer (real name: Robert Van Winkle) —who sold 15 million copies of the single “Ice Ice Baby” in 1990—was arrested April 10 at the couple’s home. Authorities said his wife called 911 and claimed he kicked and hit her during an argument. She later told deputies he only pushed her.

In an affidavit provided to Palm Beach County prosecutors, Laura Van Winkle recanted her original allegations. She now says any physical confrontation was accidental.

Prosecutors on Tuesday closed the case.

# David Blaine’s next stunt will be on Winfrey’s show

CHICAGO (AP)—He spent 44 days suspended from a glass box by the River Thames in London. He was buried alive for a week in a see-through coffin in New York.

Magician David Blaine’s latest feat of endurance likely will last less than 17 minutes, but he’s planning to do it in front of talk show queen Oprah Winfrey —and her audience of millions.

Blaine on Wednesday will try to break the world record for breath-holding during a live broadcast of “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” less than two years after going into convulsions during a similar attempt.

The time he has to beat is 16 minutes and 32 seconds, a record set Feb. 10 by Switzerland’s Peter Colat, according to Guinness World Records.

Even though Blaine has sometimes attracted thousands of spectators to what he likes to think of as his “performance pieces,” he told The Associated Press on Tuesday that it will be a challenge to break a record requiring him to remain still and calm amid the hubbub of a live studio audience.

Still, he said, the crowds have always contributed to his success.

“When you commit to it and there’s people watching, you kind of have to stick to it. You can’t back out, you can’t fade away and you can’t cheat,” he said.

“If I was doing it alone, I’d probably be off sneaking out of the box in London or grabbing some food,” he said with a laugh, speaking in a conference room in a Harpo Productions building a couple blocks from Winfrey’s television studio.

Blaine, 35, will be attempting his latest stunt in a water-filled sphere, dubbed a “human aquarium” by his team, that’s 8 feet in diameter. He’ll try to remain perfectly still, relax and



AP  
Magician David Blaine poses for a photo Tuesday, April 29, 2008, in Chicago.

lower his heart rate to minimize oxygen consumption.

But before he enters the sphere, he plans to spend about 23 minutes breathing pure oxygen through a mask to saturate his blood with oxygen and flush out carbon dioxide. Up to 30 minutes of so-called “oxygen hyperventilation” is allowed under Guinness guidelines, according to company spokeswoman Laura Plunkett.

In May 2006 as a finale to a week spent in the aquarium with an oxygen mask at New York’s Lincoln Center Blaine tried to set a new breath-holding record. Without breathing pure oxygen beforehand, he tried to break the existing record of 8 minutes, 58 seconds for an attempt of that type.

But he had to be rescued shortly after 7 minutes when he was unconscious and having convulsions.

When he decided to try a ver-

sion of the stunt again, he began training in pools and the ocean with experts in free diving.

Through nutrition, light cardio workouts and cutting out alcohol and caffeine Blaine said he’s been able to lower his resting heart rate to about 38 beats per minute, similar to that seen in highly conditioned endurance-trained athletes.

Demonstrating his focus on Wednesday’s challenge, Blaine showed off the screensaver on his iPhone: It’s a chart listing how long various types of mammals can hold their breath, on average.

For humans it’s 1 minute. Platypuses can hold their breath for 10 minutes, hippos for 15 minutes, beavers 20 minutes, and bottlenose whales 120 minutes.

“I think my real competition is the beaver,” Blaine said, smiling, “not the bottlenose whales.”

## ‘Girls Gone Wild’: Video proves call girl agreed to appear

MIAMI (AP)—The founder of “Girls Gone Wild” released a video Tuesday that he said proved the call girl involved in a scandal that brought down New York’s former governor agreed to be filmed in 2003.

The release came one day after series founder Joe Francis and his companies were sued for \$10 million in Miami federal court by Ashley Alexandra Dupre, who claims she was only 17 at the time and too young to sign a binding contract. Dupre, now 22, also accused Francis of exploiting her image and name on various Internet sites.

In the new release, Dupre appears covered by a terrycloth towel and gives her name as Amber Arpaio. An unseen questioner asks if she is 18.

“Yes I am,” Dupre answers in a strong Southern accent.

“Do you know what ‘Girls Gone

Wild’ is?” the questioner asks.

“Yes I do,” she replies with a laugh.

“Can I use this on ‘Girls Gone Wild’?” she is asked.

“Of course you can,” Dupre answers.

The video also displays a New Jersey driver’s license with the Amber Arpaio name and a birth date that would have made her appear to be in her 20s.

A lawyer and public relations firm representing Dupre did not immediately return telephone calls and e-mails seeking comment.

Dupre rocketed to fame in March when she surfaced as a high-priced call girl in the Emperors Club VIP prostitution ring that involved New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned soon after the scandal broke. Dupre, going by the name “Kristen,” met Spitzer at least once at a swanky Washington hotel, according to

court documents.

In her lawsuit, Dupre said she was on spring break in Miami Beach in 2003 when she was approached by “Girls Gone Wild” producers, given alcoholic drinks and then signed a release agreeing to appear. The series depicts women in various provocative poses or topless, often in such party locations as Mardi Gras or spring break beach towns.

Francis has said that Dupre was on the “Girls Gone Wild” bus for a week and made seven full-length videos. He said the video of her agreement to appear is proof that her lawsuit has no merit.

“It is incomprehensible that Ms. Dupre could claim she did not give her consent to be filmed by ‘Girls Gone Wild’, when in fact we have a videotape of her giving consent, while showing her identification,” Francis said in a written statement.

## Wife craving busy retirement may have to find it by herself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: “Mrs. Couch Potato” (Feb. 28) complained that she’s finding in retirement that her husband isn’t interested in social activities. Please tell her she’s not alone.

My husband and I are retired, as are most of the couples around us. It seems the men were so busy working that when they came home, all they wanted to do was to rest and decompress. I have discovered that men are not as social as women.

I’m not sure I agree that “Mister Couch Potato” is depressed, as you suggested. He’s probably no different than he has been for the past 30 years. His wife was likely so busy she never noticed.

My suggestion to her would be to continue enjoying her activities. Couples don’t have to be together 24/7. Plan an occasional outing with another couple. Invite someone over for dinner. If she waits for her husband to plan something, it won’t happen. Check out activities at the local library. Go do some together. Mr. Couch Potato may eventually find something he enjoys. It takes time.

—HAPPY WIFE OF A RETIRED HUSBAND

**DEAR HAPPY WIFE: Thank you for your insight. Responses to “Mrs. Couch Potato’s” letter were varied on this subject—an important one because many couples face similar issues after retirement. Read on:**

DEAR ABBY: I’m a seasoned curmudgeon and have been retired quite awhile. Why is a man considered “anti-social” and in need of counseling because he wants to enjoy his few remaining years by being left alone? That’s why they call it “retirement.” If a man has been a productive member of society, provided for his family, been there for his children and been a good husband, does he need to have his last little bit of soul sucked dry?

Perhaps it’s the wife who should examine her concept of retirement and seek counseling to find out why it’s so important her husband adapt to her vision of how things should be.

—SPUD SR. IN AKRON, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 49 years, and my wife and I work out our problems without a counselor. If she would like the two of them to be active, I suggest they join a fraternal organization that offers a slate of social activities and charitable-giving opportunities.

No longer having job-related responsibilities has created a vacuum for the husband that needs to be filled. He probably has skills and interests that an organization could use through volunteer services. Fraternal organizations foster good friendships and good times, and often keep couples focused outside their home environment and for the common good.

—IT WORKED FOR ME IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY: As a busy hairdresser who has been dealing with people for years, I have had enough social interaction to last the rest of my life. I savor my alone time and use it to read, go online, watch TV, play with my dogs, do yard work, etc. I love when my adult kids visit, and I love it when they leave.

My husband is busy with hobbies and friends, and sometimes goes by himself to car shows, surfing contests or other events I’m not interested in. We’re perfectly compatible and have no issues in our marriage. Our time together is filled with laughter and conversation. At work, I come across as very social, but deep down I’m like Mrs. Couch Potato’s husband. She should enjoy her space and activities apart from her husband. Partners who are independent transition easier in widowhood than those who are joined at the hip.

—DIANA IN SANTA MARIA, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

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# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



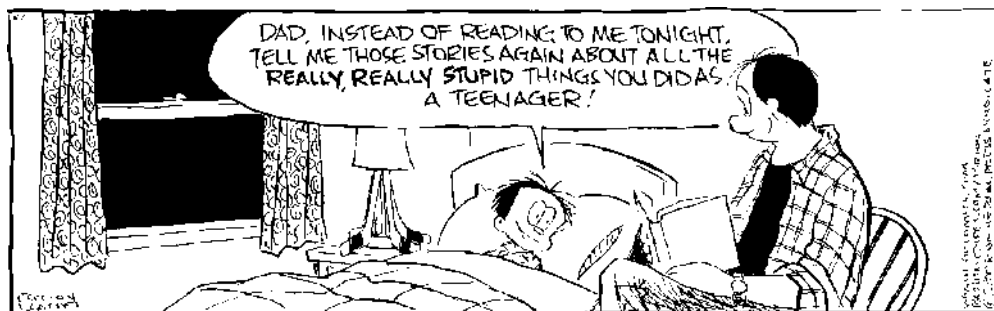
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

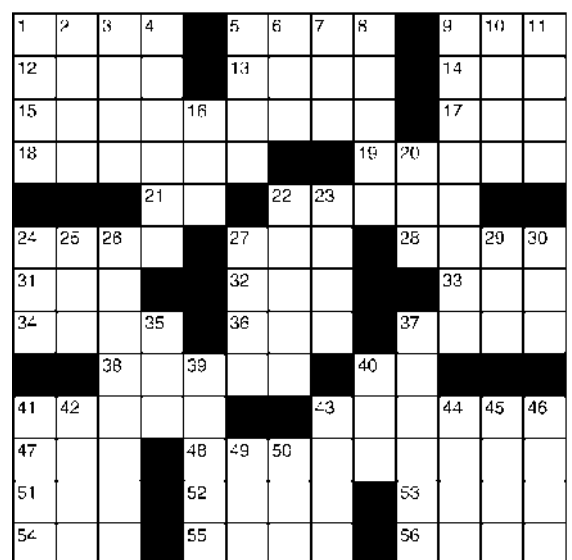
By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Steep, rugged cliff
  - 5 A number-1
  - 9 Lanka pre-eceder
  - 12 Hawaiian city
  - 13 Met melody
  - 14 Tease
  - 15 Autumnal quaff
  - 17 Altar, affirmative
  - 18 Spanish pre-curo money
  - 19 Oust
  - 21 Mother
  - 22 Singer Blige
  - 24 Slays, Sopranos-style
  - 27 Karaoke need, for short
  - 28 Uses a ray gun
  - 31 Have a bug
  - 32 Bonfire residue
  - 33 Upper limit
  - 34 "Animal House" group
  - 36 Pigpen
- DOWN**
- 37 Gumbo ingredient
  - 40 Mystery writer — James
  - 41 Malay prince
  - 43 "Dessert" made in the backyard?
  - 47 Eggs
  - 48 British flag
  - 51 Moment, for short
  - 52 Where Manilow's Lo a worked
  - 53 Curved molding
  - 54 Love boat?
  - 55 Entanglement
  - 56 Hotel furniture
  - 20 Alphabet end
  - 22 Johnny Mathis hit
  - 23 Needing liniment
  - 24 Lummax
  - 25 Ever-green
  - 26 Pancake
  - 27 Halloween prop
  - 29 Standard
  - 30 Resort
  - 35 Afternoon party
  - 37 007's derby-tossing foe
  - 39 Peel corn
  - 40 Play on words
  - 41 Parks or Bonheur
  - 42 State with certainty
  - 43 Castle protection
  - 44 Sonate staffer
  - 45 On the rocks
  - 46 Supplements, with "out"
  - 49 "Smoking or —?"
  - 50 Wall St. debut
- Solution time: 25 mins.**
- Yesterday's answer 5-1**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Wes Anderson, 39; Tim McGraw, 41; John Woo, 62; Judy Collins, 69

**Happy Birthday:** You've got plenty to look forward to this year if you finish what's undone. Once you put things that have been dragging you down behind you, doors will open for you to do something that interests you. Taking on contracts or spending time making your place more comfortable will play a role in helping you get what you want. Love is in a high cycle so make your move. Your numbers are 11, 15, 24, 30, 33, 41

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Forge ahead regardless of the setbacks you face. Expect someone you deal with to be irresponsible or difficult. If someone keeps changing his or her mind, go it alone. Stay calm. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Having patience will help you get what you want. Changes made at home will happen quickly and make you more comfortable in the end. An opportunity to work from home will allow you to get ahead and prove a point. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't give yourself too much time to think about issues with someone you have to deal with. Keep busy and you will avoid trouble. If you take on too many responsibilities, you will end up feeling used. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You have to realize what you have in order to take advantage of it. Accept the support and offerings available to you. Someone with experi-

ence can make a difference in what you are trying to accomplish. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Put all your personal, legal, medical and financial papers in order. Seeing things in black and white will help you make a decision that can change your destiny. Don't give in to a whim and spend money frivolously. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Love, travel, intrigue and making new friends, partners and acquaintances are all up for grabs. Enjoy the moment and follow your heart. Change is upon you and from here it looks positive and fruitful. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Listen to what family, friends and peers have to say and you will know how to proceed. The advice given may not work or be used, but letting others voice an opinion will allow you to ultimately do as you please. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Give some thought to how you can put a unique twist on something you are doing. You want to catch the attention of the masses, so you need something the majority of people can relate to. Once you find that element, you will have a success on your hands. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you haven't been totally honest, someone will catch you off-guard and question your motives. Unexpected alterations in your plans are likely if you haven't confirmed changes with everyone involved. Don't be evasive. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll recog-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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nize an important opportunity. Be prepared to offer what it's worth to you and you will succeed. There is plenty going on at home and the changes that you bring about will result in noticeable improvements. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Hold your ground if someone is erratic or being unreasonable. Deception is apparent, so don't take everything said at face value. Resolve issues with love, affection, compassion and understanding—not bickering. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't worry so much about what everyone else is doing. Do your own thing and do it well. Pick a secure path and you will put tension to rest. It's time for you to enjoy life instead of struggling to stay on top. ★★

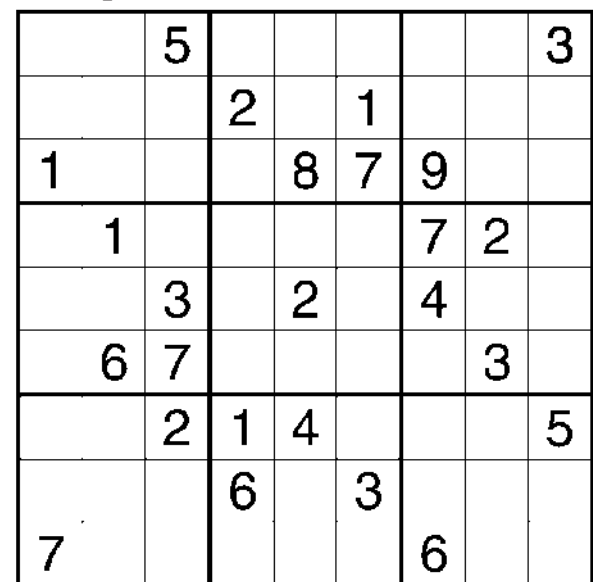
**Birthday Baby:** You are charming and able to manipulate any situation. You are industrious, quick to react and not one to sit back and criticize. You plan and then execute.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

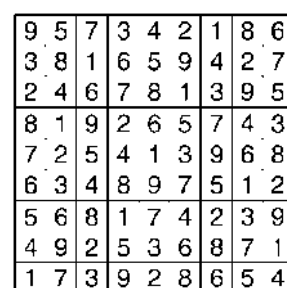


Difficulty Level ★★

5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them, and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters are listed in the Wonderword.

PARKING TICKETS

Solution: 7 letters



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A, ay, Area, Authority, Boundary, Cabs, Car, City, Code, Coins, Contest, Court, Curt, Date, Direction, D, followed, Dues, Evening, Fees, Fine, Gate, Hand, Issue, Laws, Legs, License, Limits, Lines, Loading, Lost, Motor, Morning, Neighborhood, Over, Owner, Pass, Period, Pic, cy, Posts, Public, Road, Rules, Signs, Space, Stripping, Street, Tags, Taxes, Time, Tokens, Tow, ng, Vi, ate, Width, Year, Zoned

Yesterday's Answer: Corrected

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# Spurs win Game 5 take first-round series vs Suns



**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—Tony Parker scored 31 points, Tim Duncan added 29 points and 17 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 92-87 Game 5 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

The third-seeded Spurs will meet the No. 2 seed Hornets in a second-round series that begins Saturday at New Orleans. The Hornets finished off their series with the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday, also in five games.

Boris Diaw, who had a near triple-double in the Suns' rout of the Spurs in Game 4, led the Suns with 22 points.

Four other players scored in the double digits, but the Suns had a number of costly turnovers down the stretch and were sent home yet again by the Spurs, who have eliminated Phoenix in four of their last five playoff appearances.

With the Spurs up 88-87 after battling back and forth with the Suns throughout the fourth quarter, Manu Ginobili, who had been cold all night, hit one of two from the line with 25 seconds on the clock.

Steve Nash turned the ball over on an inbounds pass from Raja Bell, and Phoenix sent Ginobili to the line again with 23 seconds left. Ginobili hit both this time to make it 91-87.

Nash's 3-point attempt missed and Duncan hit another free throw. Diaw's last-second 3 missed, but it wouldn't have made a difference.

The Spurs outscored the Suns 23-15 in the fourth quarter, led by nine points apiece from Duncan and Parker.

The Suns were trying to

become the first NBA team to come back from an 0-3 deficit, and they won Game 4 in Phoenix with gusto. They stayed in Game 5 until the end, trying to force a Game 6 back in Phoenix.

It was widely predicted that this might finally be the Suns' year and that the series would go the full seven games.

Instead, the Suns go home, falling short despite the mid-season blockbuster trade for Shaquille O'Neal—who was brought in specifically to match up better with teams like San Antonio.

Down three points to start the fourth, the Spurs battled back and Parker's under-the-basket feed to Duncan gave the Spurs a 77-76 lead with 6:43 to play.

Nash's first basket of the quarter, a mid-range jumper, put the Suns back up by one, 82-81, with 3:10 on the clock. After Parker's jumper put the Spurs up 85-82, Nash answered with his first 3 of the night to tie it.

Nash fouled Parker, who hit one of two from the line to give the Spurs a one-point cushion. His free throw was the go-ahead basket for the Spurs.

With just under 40 seconds to play, Diaw threw the ball out of bounds and Parker's jumper fell with 29 on the clock for an 88-85 Spurs lead. Diaw's quick layup brought Phoenix within 88-87.

Amare Stoudemire scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Bell added 14 points and O'Neal scored 13.

The Spurs jumped out to as much as an eight-point lead in the first quarter before the Suns evened things in the second.

O'Neal's dunk with 7:08 left put the Suns up 39-36 and Phoenix successfully ran the



AP  
San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, of France, reacts in the final moments of the team's win over the Phoenix Suns during the fourth quarter of Game 5 of an NBA Western Conference basketball playoff series in San Antonio, Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

offense through Diaw, who had a near triple-double in the Suns' Game 4 rout. He put them up 43-40 with 4:31 left in the second quarter and had 12 points at halftime.

But the Spurs closed the half with an 11-2 run led by Parker,

who had 20 points in the half, to go up 54-45.

And the Hack-a-Shaq, when Spurs coach Gregg Popovich has his players intentionally foul O'Neal, worked to San Antonio's advantage. O'Neal, a 52 percent career free-throw

shooter, made just 5-of-14 from the line.

Still, the Spurs had struggles. Ginobili, San Antonio's leading scorer in the regular season, picked up three fouls in the first half and had just two points at the break.

And while Nash had just two assists and six points after three quarters, his team was picking up the slack.

The Suns went on a 15-2 run, with O'Neal on the bench for most of it with four fouls, to take the lead. Bell's jumper as he fell to the floor put the Suns up 62-60 and his 3 after the Suns grabbed an offensive board and passed the ball all over the floor to finally find him open put them up 65-62.

Diaw's fast-break dunk made it 67-62 Phoenix with 2:14 left. They led the rest of the quarter and took a 72-69 lead into the fourth period.

## Hornets 99, Mavericks 94

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 24 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds, and New Orleans held on to win its first-round series against Dallas in five games.

David West scored 25 points for New Orleans and Jannero Pargo had 17, while Tyson Chandler had 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Devean George added 11 points in the fourth quarter as Dallas nearly pulled off an improbable comeback. The Mavericks cut a 17-point deficit to three in the final seven minutes before Peja Stojakovic hit a pair of free throws to seal it with 5.7 seconds left.

Tempers flared near the end, and Jerry Stackhouse was

ejected for a second technical foul with 1:47 left after slapping the ball out of Paul's hands during a stoppage in play, then getting in a face-to-face standoff with West.

## Rockets 95, Jazz 69

At Houston, Tracy McGrady scored 29 points, Luis Scola added 18 points and 12 rebounds, and Houston staved off elimination by routing Utah in Game 5 of its first-round series.

Dikembe Mutombo grabbed 10 rebounds as the Rockets cut their series deficit to 3-2 and forced Game 6 in Utah on Friday night.

Now, the Jazz can end the series at home, where they went 37-4 during the regular season. But it's no guarantee—Houston was the first team to beat Utah in Salt Lake City during the regular season and won Game 3 there last Thursday.

Carlos Boozer led Utah with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Deron Williams had 13 points and six assists.

## Pistons 98, 76ers 81

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups scored 21 points, Richard Hamilton had 20 and Rasheed Wallace added 19 to lift Detroit to a 3-2 lead over Philadelphia in its first-round series.

Detroit leads in the series for the first time after being the first team to win consecutive games. If the Pistons win Game 6 on Thursday in Philadelphia or Game 7 at home, they will advance in the playoffs for the seventh year in a row.

Andre Iguodala scored a career playoff-high 21 points, finally putting together a night that resembled his play in the regular season, but he didn't have much help.

# Byron Scott runs away with NBA coach of year award

**NEWORLEANS**(AP)—When Chris Paul arrived for a workout before the 2005 NBA draft, Byron Scott took him to lunch and said the Hornets wanted the point guard if he was still available at the fourth pick.

Utah, which also needed a guard, picked ahead of New Orleans but went with Deron Williams. So Scott got his man, built his team around him, and Tuesday wore a wide grin as he glanced down at the Red Auerbach trophy in his hands.

Scott was voted the NBA coach of the year by a wide margin following a regular season in which the Hornets won a franchise-record 56 games and earned their first playoff berth in four years.

"This is a very humbling experience for me because this is something you never think about," said Scott, joking that the statuette of Auerbach "kind of looks like me."

"All I think about is getting great guys and trying to make

them better and trying to win basketball games, so this is very special," Scott said. "I've got an unbelievable group of guys that I enjoy being around every day. They are a special group. I love them dearly. There's not a coach in this business that has a better job than I do."

Scott received 70 first-place votes, while Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers received 23 and Houston Rockets coach Rick Adelman 17.

It is Scott's eighth season as an NBA coach, including four with the New Jersey Nets before joining the Hornets. Scott won three NBA titles as a player with the Los Angeles Lakers and twice coached the Nets to the NBA finals.

Scott accepted the trophy hours before the Hornets, holding a 3-1 lead in their first round playoff series with the Dallas Mavericks, tipped off Game 5 Tuesday night.

Owner George Shinn, general manager Jeff Bower, players

and numerous front-office personnel crowded into a room in the New Orleans Arena for the presentation.

Bower called the award a reflection of a team "growing together, struggling together and improving together to get the point where we stand here today to celebrate what's generally noted as one of the premier awards in the game.

"We have a great man here who has done an incredible job with his team. We have a great team here who has bonded together and allowed him to coach them," Bower said. "That is a fact that is so undervalued. It has to be a joint effort and it only exists and only comes together when there's that spirit that everybody understands why they're being asked to do things."

Scott cited his playing days under Pat Riley in Los Angeles and Larry Brown in Indiana, and his time as an assistant under Adelman in Sacramento as key influ-

ences in his coaching career.

"I've had three guys that have taught me how to approach this game from a coaching standpoint," Scott said. "It's kind of rubbed off. I always thought, if you didn't take something from those guys then you were doing yourself an injustice."

Paul said Scott "really understands players because he's a players' coach."

"Guys on our team can really respect him and understand him because he played in this league and was successful," Paul said. "He was a great player in this league and that's why we listen to him and we understand we can learn a lot. Coach has made me into the player I am today and I'm forever grateful to him."

Scott became available to coach the Hornets when the Nets fired him during the 2003-04 season. New Jersey had been to the finals the previous season, but Scott's relationship with certain players, including then-Nets

guard Jason Kidd, appeared to be strained at the time.

Scott took over the Hornets in 2004-05 and went 18-64 while presiding over a roster overhaul that included the trade of star guard Baron Davis to the Golden State Warriors.

New Orleans then drafted Paul and won 38 games in his rookie season, during which the team also was displaced to Oklahoma City by Hurricane Katrina.

The Hornets spent a second season in Oklahoma, winning 39 games and narrowly missing the playoffs despite a rash of injuries to Paul and fellow starters Peja Stojakovic, Tyson Chandler and David West.

This season, they returned to New Orleans full time and Scott became a front-runner for coach of the year after the Hornets went into the All-Star break with the best record in the Western Conference. That earned Scott the nod to coach the West squad in the All-Star game, which was

hosted by New Orleans and included two Hornets players Paul and West.

Those factors won over fans who at first seemed hesitant to commit their money or emotions to a team widely thought to have an uncertain future in New Orleans.

Sellouts, always a certainty for the NFL's Saints, became the norm for the Hornets during the second half of the season. They remained in contention for the top seed in the West until the final week of the season.

New Orleans won what many considered the toughest division in the NBA, finishing ahead of San Antonio, Houston and Dallas, all 50-win teams.

They entered Tuesday night's game one victory away from becoming the first NBA team representing New Orleans to win a playoff series.

"It's been amazing, in a football town, that people are falling in love with the round ball," Shinn said. "It's been great."



# Red Sox wins pitcher's duel against Blue Jays



**BOSTON**  
(A P) — Kevin Youkilis

lined a run-scoring single to center field in the ninth, ending a brilliant pitching duel between Roy Halladay and Jon Lester and giving the Boston Red Sox a 1-0 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday.

Halladay (2-4) retired the first two batters in the inning before walking David Ortiz. Manny Ramirez looped a single to center, sending Ortiz to second, and Youkilis hit a ball in front of center fielder Vernon Wells that he couldn't handle.

The hard-luck Halladay pitched his fourth straight complete game, but he's lost the last three.

## Orioles 7, Rays 4

At Baltimore, Garrett Olson took a shutout into the seventh inning, and Baltimore ended Tampa Bay's six-game winning streak in a surprising duel for first place in the American League East.

Aubrey Huff homered and Melvin Mora had two RBIs for the Orioles.

Recalled from Triple-A Norfolk before the game, Olson (1-0) gave up two runs and four hits in 6 2-3 innings, walking five and striking out six.

Tampa Bay's Jason Hammel (2-2) allowed three runs, six hits and four walks in 2 2-3 innings, the shortest of his 28 career starts in the big leagues.

## Tigers 6, Yankees 4

At New York, Gary Sheffield and Curtis Granderson homered in the third inning, helping old pro Kenny Rogers and Detroit beat road-weary New York.

Magglio Ordonez got Detroit going with a two-run single off Phil Hughes (0-4), who was booed by the crowd of 49,194 for allowing six runs and eight hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Rogers (2-3) held New York in check despite giving up six hits, including Robinson Cano's two-run homer, and four walks in six innings.

## Mariners 7, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Adrian Beltre hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in Seattle's five-run ninth inning, making a winner of Mark Lowe.

Jose Lopez singled to start the inning off Rafael Betancourt (1-1) and took second on a soft single by Raul Ibanez. Beltre then hit an 0-1 pitch for his fifth homer and a 5-2 lead. Yuniesky Betancourt added a two-out, two-run single off Craig Breslow.

Lowe (1-1) came on to strike out Jhonny Peralta and end the eighth after Cleveland tied it 2-2 on an RBI groundout by Travis Hafner.

## Twins 3, White Sox 1

At Minneapolis, Boof Bonser picked up Minnesota's beleaguered starting rotation with the

group's first win in 10 days.

Bonser (2-4) gave up a homer to Joe Crede among six hits and struck out eight. He mixed a sharp curveball and a sneaky slider with a fastball to keep first-place Chicago off balance.

Gavin Floyd (2-1) gave up three runs and five hits in six innings and Crede hit his AL-leading seventh homer of the season.

## Royals 9, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, Jose Guillen hit a two-run homer and drove in five runs, helping Kansas City win for the third time in four games after snapping a seven-game losing streak.

Texas has lost 14 of its last 18 games to fall to a major league-worst 9-18.

Texas starter Jason Jennings (0-5) gave up eight hits and five runs before leaving in the third with ulnar nerve irritation in his right arm. Given a 7-2 lead, Brett Tomko couldn't last more than 3 1-3 innings. He gave up five runs and seven hits.

## Angels 2, Athletics 0

At Anaheim, California, Joe Saunders outpitched Greg Smith to remain undefeated in six starts, and Los Angeles climbed back into a first-place tie with Oakland in the AL West.

Saunders (5-0) combined with Francisco Rodriguez on the Angels' second shutout victory this season, scattering four hits over eight innings with five strikeouts and a walk. Saunders joined Frank Tanana as the only pitchers in the franchise's 48-year history to go 5-0 in April.

Rodriguez pitched a hitless ninth for his major league-leading 11th save.

## Phillies 7, Padres 4

At Philadelphia, Cole Hamels had an impressive outing and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Diego Padres, denying Greg Maddux his 350th career victory.

Hamels (3-3) allowed five hits, two runs and struck out six in 7 1-3 innings. Tom Gordon worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and the Phillies scored four insurance runs in the bottom half.

# Jordan hires nomadic Brown to coach Bobcats



**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—Larry Brown wanted to resurrect his vagabond, Hall of Fame coaching career. Michael Jordan needed a veteran teacher and a big hire to rescue his sinking reputation as an NBA executive.

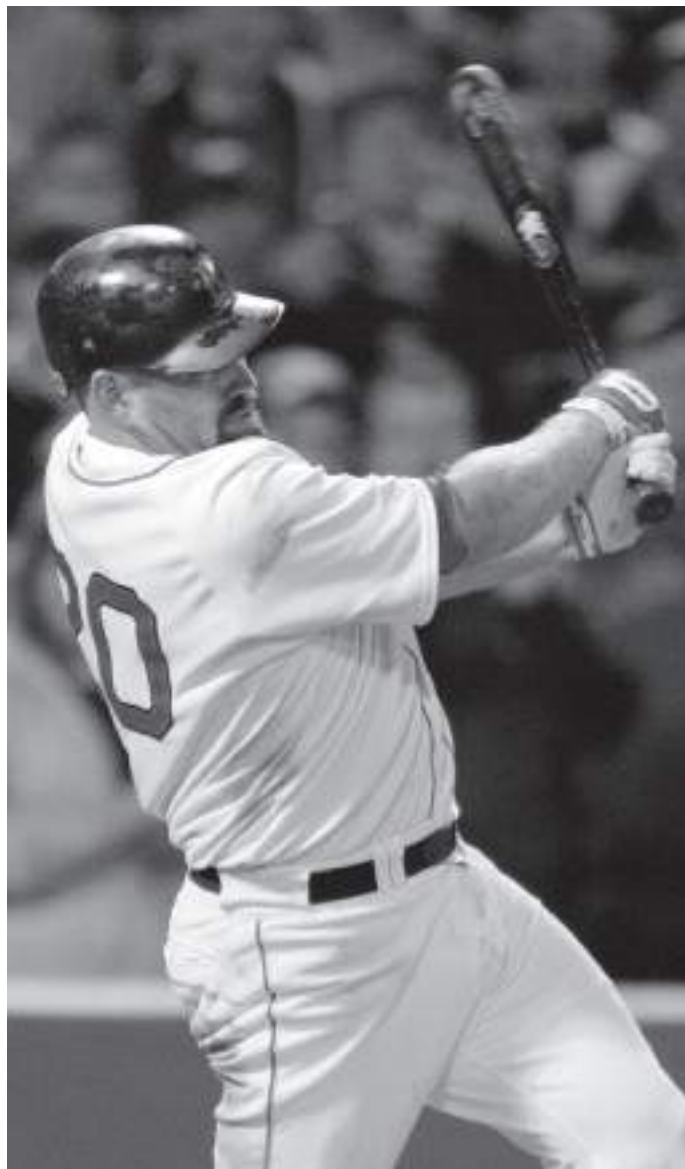
The two former North Carolina players teamed up Tuesday when Jordan introduced Brown as coach of the Charlotte Bobcats—his ninth NBA coaching job. Brown agreed to a four-year contract, returning to the state where his nomadic coach-

Maddux (2-2) gave up three runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. The four-time Cy Young award winner was trying for the third start to become the ninth pitcher in big league history to reach 350 wins.

Scott Hairston hit a pair of homers for San Diego.

## Nationals 6, Braves 3

At Washington, slumping Ryan Zimmerman had a season-high



Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis belts a game-winning, RBI single, which drove in David Ortiz, against the Toronto Blue Jays in the bottom of the ninth inning of their MLB baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

three hits, including a homer and tiebreaking two-run double, to lead Washington past Atlanta.

Zimmerman and Nick Johnson hit consecutive solo shots in the third inning off Tom Glavine, who was coming off his first trip to the disabled list in a 22-season career. Zimmerman

hadn't homered since April 2.

Then, in Washington's four-run seventh, Zimmerman hit his double off reliever Blaine Boyer (0-3), who was charged with four runs and got only one out.

The Braves, whose highlight was Chipper Jones' eighth homer, have lost three straight games.

## Dodgers 7, Marlins 6

At Miami, Jeff Kent's two-out

to protect a 6-1 lead. Dan Uggla hit his fourth homer for Florida, and it scored three unearned runs in the fifth for a 6-all tie.

## Mets 5, Pirates 4, 11 innings

At New York, David Wright hit a single over a pulled in outfield with the bases loaded in the 11th inning, giving New York the win over Pittsburgh after the Mets' bullpen wasted a two-hit performance by Johan Santana.

Endy Chavez singled off John Van Benschoten (0-1), Pittsburgh's sixth pitcher, leading off the 11th. Van Benschoten balked to move Chavez to second. Marlon Anderson sacrificed, and after Jose Reyes was walked intentionally—he reached in all six plate appearances—Luis Castillo walked.

Wright then hit a fly that just barely landed inside the right-field line, causing a delayed reaction from the players and fans.

The Pirates tied it in the ninth against Billy Wagner with an assist from Reyes' throwing error. It was Wagner's first blown save of the season—his first run, too, albeit unearned.

## Astros 6, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Geoff Blum doubled in three runs and Houston handed Arizona only its third home loss in 13 games his season.

Max Scherzer, the Diamondbacks' 2006 first-round draft pick, made an impressive major league debut. He retired all 13 batters he faced, seven by strikeout, with a fastball that reached 98 mph. It was the most strikeouts ever by an Arizona pitcher in his first big-league game.

Jose Valverde, who led the majors with 47 saves for Arizona last year and was traded to Houston in the offseason, pitched a scoreless ninth for his fourth save in seven opportunities.

## Brewers 10, Cubs 7

At Chicago, Mike Cameron had three hits, including a two-run single in the seventh that broke open the game, and Milwaukee beat Chicago to overcome a shaky outing by Ben Sheets (4-0), who issued a career-high seven walks and allowed four

runs in five innings.

Cameron sparked a slumping offense after serving a 25-game suspension for testing positive twice for a banned stimulant while with San Diego. The Brewers had a season-high 17 hits.

Cubs starter Jason Marquis (1-1) allowed five runs and 10 hits in five innings.

## Rockies 3, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum's first loss of the year came via a debated balk call that pushed home the go-ahead run as Colorado edged San Francisco.

Chris Iannetta, who replaced the injured Troy Tulowitzki in the first, scored on that seventh-inning balk by Lincecum (4-1) that helped Colorado snap a four-game losing streak.

Iannetta also hit the first home run off Lincecum this year with a second-inning solo shot to help Aaron Cook (4-1) win his fourth straight start. Iannetta doubled to start the seventh.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy was ejected for arguing the balk, a night after Rockies skipper Clint Hurdle was thrown out for the same thing.

With Iannetta at third base with one out in the seventh inning, Giants catcher Bengie Molina appeared to ask for a timeout with Yorvit Torrealba at the plate. But plate umpire Gary Darling called a balk on Lincecum to score Iannetta for the go-ahead run and a 3-2 Rockies lead.

## Cardinals 7, Reds 2

At St. Louis, Joel Pineiro pitched seven innings of one-hit ball and St. Louis jumped on rookie Johnny Cueto for seven runs in the first two innings.

Troy Glaus and Rick Ankiel combined for four hits and five RBIs in their first two at-bats for the Cardinals. Skip Schumaker tied his career best with four hits and Albert Pujols walked off Josh Fogg in the eighth and has reached base safely in all 28 games.

Cueto (1-3) allowed seven runs, six earned, on eight hits in 1 2-3 innings.

Pineiro (2-2) gave up a lead-off single to Corey Patterson and retired his last 12 batters in order.

ing journey began.

"How are you going to say no to Michael?" Brown said. "I've known him a long time. The things he stands for have made our game better. There's no way I could say no to him. It was a pretty easy decision once my wife said yes."

The 67-year-old Brown replaces Sam Vincent, whom Jordan hired last year despite no NBA head coaching experience. Vincent, who was fired Saturday, struggled to find consistent rotations and clashed with players in a 32-50 season.

Brown's nine NBA teams

are three more than any other coach—Kevin Loughery and Lenny Wilkens each coached six.

"I think I've coached almost everybody in the NBA, but I'm going to challenge everybody to do their best," Brown said. "That's what Michael is about and that's what I'm about."

The Bobcats are in their fourth year, and Brown gives the struggling franchise instant credibility. He's one of only five NBA coaches with more than 1,000 wins and the only coach to lead teams to NBA and NCAA titles.

"I don't want to put too much

pressure on Larry," Jordan said. "But I think this is the atmosphere he enjoys."

But Brown hasn't lasted anywhere long, and has had some ugly divorces. His last coaching job was the disastrous 2005-06 season in New York, when the Knicks went 23-59 and Brown clashed with management.

His dismissal was followed by a long dispute over how much money he was owed for the rest of his contract.

A deal eventually was struck and Brown became an executive vice president with the Philadelphia 76ers, but Brown yearned

to return to the bench.

"I was a bad coach. I did a bad job. I learned from that," Brown said, referring to his time with the Knicks. "But being out of it in the last few years, even though I had a title in Philly ... I just missed being around the game. I love it. I want to be a part of it."

Jordan said he contacted Brown before hiring Vincent last spring, but Brown said he wasn't ready to return. He changed his mind late this season, quitting his job in Philadelphia after being interviewed for the Stanford opening.







# Construction of skatepark begins

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Local skateboarding enthusiasts celebrated on Monday as they witnessed the start of construction of Saipan's first skatepark.

The fence was finally put up on Monday as workers began bringing in equipment and materials to be used for the construction of the CNMI Skatepark.

A group of skateboarders and skateboard supporters gathered last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park where the new skatepark would soon be erected. The area near the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Local skateboarders pose for the camera as they celebrate the start of the construction of the CNMI Skatepark at the Garapan Central Park.

Garapan Roundhouse will become the skatepark once the project is completed in late August of this year.

Saipan Rotary Club member Laurie Peterka, who is at the forefront of the project, said the notice to proceed for the construction was granted last week by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

The funding for the skatepark project is a combination of Saipan locally legislated funds, federal CDBG

funds, and Rotary funds.

The Saipan Rotary together with the Island Skate Society, ISK8, board members Scott and Dee McClarin and advisers Gayle Martin and Dennis Yoshimoto have all been working on the project for over three years.

Peterka said the project team will continue to enhance the park's aesthetics and safety by providing new picnic tables and seek additional funds for a traffic light and crosswalks to

Saipan's multi-cultural park.

ISK8 is a non-profit organization promoting a safe community for skateboarders.

"We work as a community based group to promote skate safety by building public skate parks. Saipan has an estimated skate community of 200 skaters, and is rapidly growing," said Peterka.

"With the support from our community we can celebrate the affordable and healthy hobby/sport of skateboarding.

For more information, email ISK8 at islandsk8@gmail.com or check out their website at islandsk8.googlepages.com/home.

## NMASA May general membership meeting tonight



The Northern Mariana Islands Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, May 1, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

As always, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (April) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the May general membership meeting.

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies

to be distributed to members during the meeting.

According to NMASA president Michael A. White, among the topics also set to be discussed during the meeting will be the CNMI's participation in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands.

Cook Islands last year announced that 15 sports featured in the 2009 edition of the quadrennial Games. The 15 sports are up from the 12 offered during the VII Pacific Mini Games held in Koror, Palau in 2005.

Athletics, table tennis, triathlon, va'a or outrigger canoeing, and weightlifting, bodybuild-

ing, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby league, and touch rugby are the sports lined up for the 2009 Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

White earlier said the CNMI could possibly send athletes in six of the sports, namely athletics, golf, table tennis, triathlon, sailing, and va'a or outrigger canoeing.

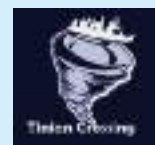
White said he is advising all six sports federations to start preparing for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

"The cost of participation is \$3,200 per person, about the same in what we budgeted [going] to Samoa. Now is the time to start getting organized and raising funds." (Mark Rabago)

## Saipan, Guam paddlers to cross Tinian channel

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



A nine-man crew from Guam will join the Saipan Outrigger Canoe Club in making the 3rd Tinian Crossing this weekend.

The 40-mile, two-day challenge will take place during the San Jose Fiesta in Tinian when SOCC and Guam paddlers will paddle from Saipan to Tinian and back.

Event organizer Richard Sikkell said the Guam boat will be needing one additional crew since only eight of them will be going back to Saipan.

The event begins early Sat-

urday morning at the Kilili Beach Park.

Sikkell said the first day is usually relatively easy going with the wind and swells in the back. "Upon landing on Tinian paddlers get a taste of traditional island hospitality."

The trip back on the second day is slightly tougher due to the fatigue of the previous day.

The channel is between Saipan and Tinian with its illusive and dreaded whirlpool, which is the most challenging part of the crossing. Paddlers will go against the wind and swells in the second day of the crossing.

Two chase boats are set to assist the two groups while a third boat is still in the works for

boosters and photographers.

Each boat crew can also consist of nine to 12 paddlers.

Those who are confirmed from SOCC are Brian Eckert, Sonny Downer, Leon, Dave Palacios, Cooper Schraudenbacher, Rita Bonice, Eric O'Malley, Jim Sirok, Gil Birnrich, and Richard Sikkell.

Other SOCC event in their calendar is the Dragon Triangle Challenge on June 7 when they are scheduled to circumnavigate Saipan.

SOCC is also looking for interested high school paddlers who want to join the Guam Youth Invitational Outrigger Race on June 14 and 15. They are also looking for sponsors that will help fund the trip.



### WOMEN'S TEAM

**CNMI 0, GUAM, 0** - Exhausting double-overtime battle. In a display of fairplay and sportmanship, both teams decided to share possession of the Cup Trophy for six months each, until they meet again next year, 2009 in Guam.

## CONGRATULATIONS MEN'S & WOMEN'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAMS



Top left to right, then bottom left to right are; Manager, Glen Smith, Coach Nick Swaim, Madison Smith, Katie Peters, Patricia Coleman, Rhema Haliby, Ashley Hoffschneider, Elisa Fejeran, Connie Camacho, Zoe Jewell, asst. Coach Ichiro Fujita, Mariana Welch, Nicki Gabaldon, Meahgan Hassel-Shearer, Lindsay Davis, Emily Gries, Rebecca Newman, Brenda Schultz, Amanda Allen, Natalie Hill, Francine Sablan, and Jennifer Albers.



From top left to right, then bottom left to right are; Manager, John Ravell, Angelo Villagomez, Joe Miller, Michael Thomas, Lucas Knecht, Coach/Player Nick Swaim, Peter Loken, Ross Wood, Dale Roberts, Dave Duenas, Brad Ruszala, asst. Coach Ichiro Fujita, Arcee Reusora, Steve McKagen, Norman Camacho, Choi Woon, Greg Borja, Chris Guerrero, Peter Houk, Elias Rangamar, and Dan Westphal.

### MEN'S TEAM

**CNMI 2, GUAM 3** - Guam scored a heart-breaking 3rd goal in the final minute of double overtime. Next year the CNMI will travel to Guam to compete for the Cup in 2009.

### SUPPORTERS OF 2008 MARIANAS CUP

American Red Cross	Glenn Smith
CIC	Ivan Quichocho
CMS	Jacqueline Hernandez
Dept. of Public Health	Jaime Saiki
Division of Sports and Recreation	Jason Schroeder
Fiesta Resort and Spa	Jeff Brostrom
First Floral Shop	John Ravell
Guam Football Association	Jojie Vallo
Hannam Market	Judy Mendieta
Horizons, Inc.	Lani Walker
KSPN	Lois Dewitt
Marianas Eye Institute	Maria Ornes
Micronesian Brokers Inc.	Miguel Brostrom
Midway Motors	Nick Swaim
PDI & Top Development Inc.	Pam Carhill
PTI	Peter Coleman
Realty Management Services	Peter Loken
Saipan Grand Hotel	Puy Macario
Se Joong Tour Mall	R.J. Knecht
Shirley's Coffee Shop	Richard Brostrom
Star Water	Rob Schultz
Tan Holdings Foundation	Sarah Yap
Triple J Five Star Wholesale	Stephanie Jewell
	Sue Knecht
	Tiger Lee
	Vanessa Pritchard

### NAMES OF VOLUNTEERS

Alleny Tenorio	NMIFA Local Organizing
Angelo Villagomez	Committee Members
Arkie Reusora	LOC Event Volunteers
Betty Johnson	Ball Boy and Girl Volunteers
Bo Barry	Flag Bearer Boy and Girl
Bob Coldeen	Volunteers
Brad Ruszala	Escort Boy and Girl Volunteers
Brenda Schultz	
Christie Shearer	
Christina Smith	
Dave Duenas	
Dean Tenorio	
Ed Arriola	
Emily Gries	

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Mr. Takeo Okada, EAFF
Mr. Alexandre Rego, EAFF
Mr. Ichiro Fujita, JFA
Mr. Richard Lai, GFA





## Construction of skatepark begins

Local skateboarding enthusiasts celebrated on Monday as they witnessed the start of construction of Saipan's first skatepark.

27

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Spurs win Game 5 to win first-round series against Suns

Tony Parker scored 31 points, Tim Duncan added 29 points and 17 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 92-87 Game 5 victory over the Phoenix Suns. **24**



28 THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Swimmers haul back 19 medals from Guam

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI's swimming future looks bright as attested by Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's successful campaign in the 2008 Guam Short Course Championships held last Saturday at the Hagatna Pool in Guam.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said the club's eight young swimmers took home a total of 19 medals from the swim meet.

Leading the way for the club was 8-year-old Kaito Yanai who bagged five medals—four gold and one silver en route to finishing third place overall in his division.

The Garapan Elementary School student was the first to touch the tile in the 25m breaststroke, 50m breaststroke, and 100m individual medley. He also struck gold as part of the 100m freestyle relay team. He won second place in the 25m backstroke



Tsunami Saipan swimmers Kaisei Toda, Takumi Sugie, Ritsuki Umeda, Daisuke Fitial, Kosei Toda, Kaito Yanai, Ryosei Toda, and Fumika Umeda pose at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport shortly after arriving from Guam where they competed in the 2008 Guam Short Course Championships.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Another 8-year-old, Daisuke Fitial, also made waves in the pool, winning gold medals in the 25m freestyle as well as in the boys' 100m freestyle relay. He also added four silver medals in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 25m butterfly, and 50m butterfly to finish second in the High Points race.

Yanai's and Fitial's teammate in the gold-medal winning boys' 100m freestyle relay team, 7-year-old Ryosei Toda, also was a multiple gold medal winner as he came in first in the 25m backstroke. He also added a silver in the 25m breaststroke and a bronze in the 50m breaststroke for good measure.

The team's oldest swimmer and the only rose among the thorns, 12-year-old Fumika Umeda, also gave a good account of herself, winning a bronze in the 50m breaststroke. That was quite an achievement for her, according to Kimura, considering Umeda only started swimming last September.

Last but not the least, 11-year-old Kaisei Toda finished fourth in his age group after collecting a silver in the

See **SWIMMERS** on Page 26

## Lizama homers as Ol'Aces eclipse Suns

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

Jeremy Lizama belted two inside-the-park home runs to help the Happy Market Ol'Aces to a 32-5 crushing of the Shell Marianas Suns in Sunday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The win kept Ol'Aces within striking distance of the SaipanCell Patriots as they improved to 10-2 to remain half-a-game back of the defending champions' 10-1 card.

Lizama blasted back-to-back inside-the-park four-baggers in the second and third with his last blast, a two-run homer, highlighting a 16-run third inning scoring barrage. He went 4-for-4 with four runs scored, a double, and three RBIs to go with his two round-trippers.

Lizama started the game with a first inning single then scored on an error by Suns catcher Derron Pangelinan. He had a solo shot in the sec-

See **LIZAMA** on Page 26



JON PEREZ  
Happy Market Ol'Aces slugger Jeremy Lizama prepares to run toward home plate in this file photo taken in one of their games in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

## Kids triathlon this Saturday in Marpi

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



The second Kids XTEARRA triathlon event kicks off on Saturday with the venue going back to the Marianas Resort & Spa in the Kan Pacific grounds in Marpi.

Event organizer and Saipan Swim Club coach Michael Stewart said the swim leg would be held at the Marpi pool while the bike and run portions will be around the Kan Pacific grounds. The distances have also changed.

The 8-and-under division  
See **KIDS** on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Steven Goodwin puts on his helmet before heading off to the bike leg of the Kids XTEARRA Triathlon race last April 12 at the Marianas Resort & Spa grounds.

## MASA eyes July motor-sports events

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

The Marianas Automotor Sports Association is planning to hold three motor-sports events in July to continue their promotion of the sport as well as attract competitors from Guam.

MASA president Kazu Ikeda said there is not much activity in their association for the past year since they don't have a permanent racetrack yet to hold their activities.

Ikeda, however, is optimistic that the planned track in Marpi is possible in the near future. He said the track would boost the CNMI tourism industry since the racetrack would be an added attraction on Saipan.

Ikeda and his group plan to hold three events for off-road racing enthusiasts. They are looking of holding a rock crawling, obstacle course, and mud bog/mud drag race sometime in July.

He said he has already opened up the idea to AMBRO-

SE Guam's John Shimizu, who plans to ship over their off-road buggies on Saipan for the July event.

AMBROSE is the sister company of MARPAC, which distributes Budweiser and other Anheuser-Busch products in Guam and the CNMI.

Ikeda said the Budweiser monster, the Budlight buggy, and the new buggy of Joey Quichocho will be shipped to Saipan in time for the race. All three buggies

See **MASA** on Page 26